Angara: GMA emissaries acted in bad faith

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2001 ★★ 66 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 57 ₱15

Gloria names FVR nephew DAR chief

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

PANGASINAN Rep. Hernani Braganza has accepted the agrarian reform portfolio and President Macapagal-Arroyo will sign his appointment papers soon, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Renato Corona said yesterday.

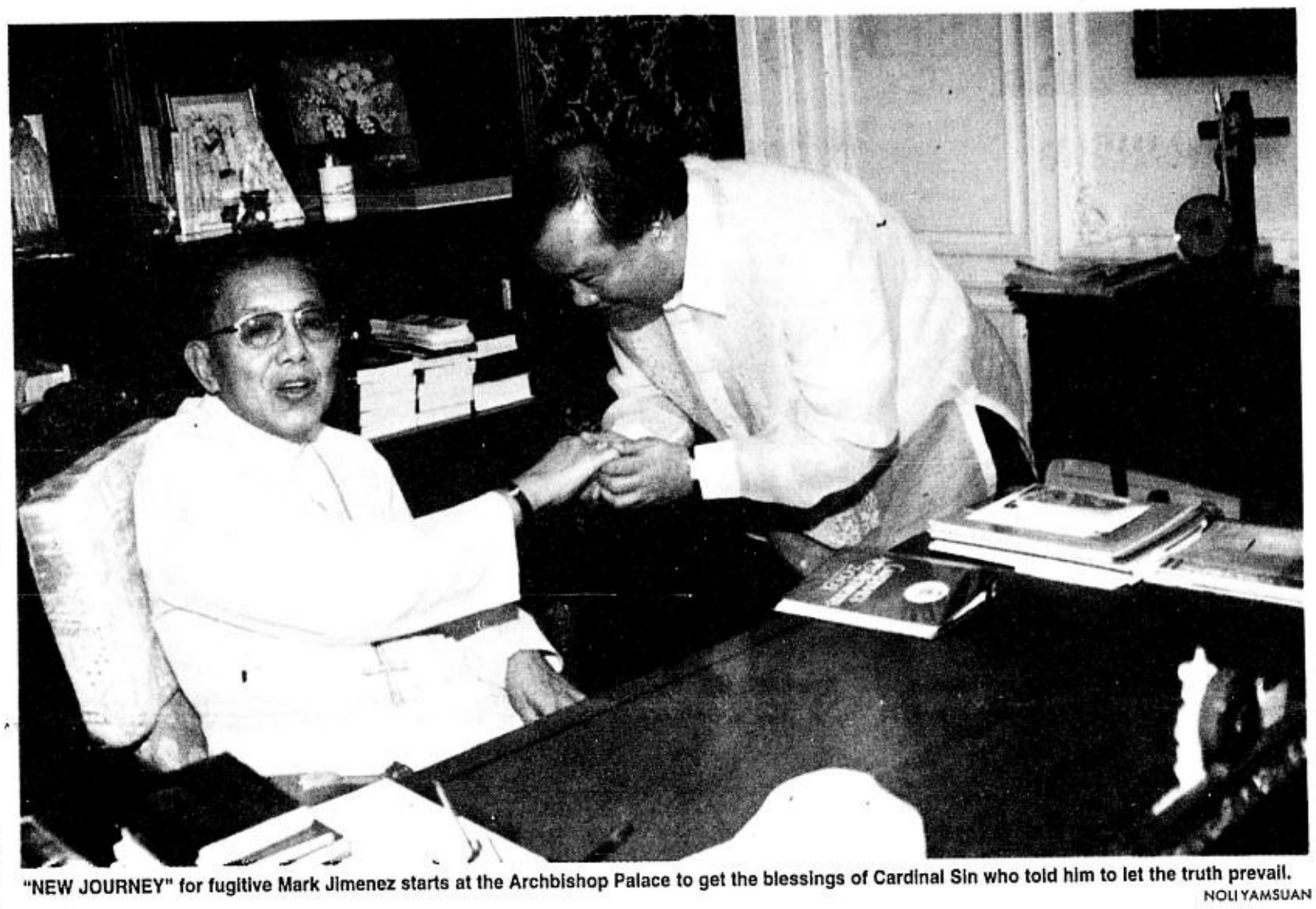
GLORIA/ A16

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- Room at the top for Penelope Cruz
- Tribute to Sylvia La Torre
- Kevin Spacey likes doing 'dangerous' movies
- Jack Nicholson turns in another compelling performance

CRUZ

Davide rates higher than Gloria in survey



"NEW JOURNEY" for fugitive Mark Jimenez starts at the Archbishop Palace to get the blessings of Cardinal Sin who told him to let the truth prevail.
NOLI YAMSUAN

President's trust rating soars by 58 points

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. enjoys a higher trust rating among residents of Metro Manila than President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to results of a Pulse Asia survey.

The Pulse Asia survey, which covered 346 respondents, was conducted on Jan. 26 or six days after a popular uprising ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The survey showed that Davide obtained a net trust rating of 48 percent, according to Pulse Asia president Felipe Miranda.

It was Davide who presided over the televised Senate impeachment trial of Estrada for 24 days until it was suspended on Jan. 17 after the House prosecutors resigned in protest over the Senate decision not to open an envelope containing evidence on the P3.3-blilion bank account of the former President.

The suppression of evidence fueled public outrage that led to the ouster of Estrada.

Although Ms Macapagal has a lower net trust rating than Davide, hers improved by a phenomenal 58 percentage points.

Her net trust rating rose to 14 percent from negative 44 percent in the Pulse Asia survey on Jan. 20.

At the same time, her distrust rating dramatically dropped from 60 percent to 24 percent.

"The distrust in President (Macapagal) practically evaporates. This is the most impressive in the history of socio-political surveys the past 16 years," Miranda said in a

DAVIDE/ A16

7 Edsa blocs lobby for Senate slots

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL, JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

WITH the legitimacy of the new government at stake, Malacañang is upbeat about making a clean sweep in the May 14 general elections, even though the administration's rainbow coalition is in apparent chaos as seven factions lobby to land one of the 12 slots on the coalition's senatorial ticket.

The outlook is bleaker still for ousted President Joseph Estrada, and at least one of his allies admits that pro-Estrada politicians are counting on "sympathy votes" to propel their underdog candidates back into power.

Deserted by the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), Estrada has only a small chance of making a comeback since he is backed only by the remnants of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) and his own Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), legislators said yesterday.

And the LDP plans to announce

7 EDSA/ A16

Magic 12: Who's in in Metro

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

BROADCASTER Noli de Castro is the No. 1 choice for senator of the residents of Metro Manila, according to results of a Pulse Asia survey.

De Castro obtained the highest number of "votes" (51 percent) in the survey of 346 Metro Manila residents conducted by Pulse Asia on Jan. 26.

Sen. Juan Flavier came in second with 46.5 percent.

Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo was third with 45.7 percent. He was a prosecutor in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

Arroyo was followed by Sen. Franklin Drilon (45.7 percent) and lawyer Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan (42.4 percent).

MAGIC/ A16

Mark Jimenez confesses sins to Sin

BY NORMAN BORDADORA, MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND DONA PAZZIBUGAN

WITH BLESSINGS from Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, businessman Mark Jimenez yesterday said he was not afraid to testify against ousted President Joseph Estrada because truth was on his side.

Jimenez went to Sin's residence in Mandaluyong City yesterday morning in much the same way that Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson sought the archbishop's blessings before he went public with the "jueteng" exposé in October.

"Continue your journey . . . let the truth prevail," Sin told Jimenez, a former member of Estrada's inner circle, in their hour-long private meeting.

Jimenez said he received encouragement from the influential prelate to cooperate with government prosecutors in building up the cases against Estrada.

The ousted President is facing several criminal charges, including graft and plunder, which lawyers' and anti-crime groups filed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Department of Justice itself will file three charges against the former President next week.

Jimenez, whom Estrada described as a "corporate genius," has already executed an affidavit against Estrada.

The businessman said he would testify against Estrada because "the inner self made me realize that I

MARK/ A16

Fugitive French oil exec falls after 4 years

AFTER four years on the run, a French oil executive was arrested yesterday in Tagaytay City while on trial in absentia in Paris in a multimillion-dollar corruption scandal involving a French former foreign minister.

Alfred Sirven, formerly the second-in-command of the French oil company Elf, will be sent back to France today based on a Jan. 31 deportation order.

"I will leave in regret," he said as he denied the charges against him.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said French officials believe the 74-year-old Sirven left his homeland with nearly $400 million in company funds.

"The French government is very much interested in bringing him back to France to testify in corruption cases against high officials of France," Perez said.

A small group of investigators had worked seven days a week and chased the fugitive up and down the country—through 20 cities, coconut groves, cattle ranches and even prawn farms.

But the intense 11-month chase ended quietly yesterday when his pursuers, armed with assault rifles, shotguns and pistols, approached his modest home in Tagaytay and found Sirven alone, sipping wine in the living room.

"I give up," the agents quoted him as saying. "It's all over.

FUGITIVE/ A4

SIRVEN: Valentine's gift to the French.

DENNIS SAMANGAN

Sotto told: You had it coming

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

A CONGRESSMAN yesterday chided Sen. Vicente Sotto III for chasing after cellular phone firms, saying that the "toilet humor" of the former comedian's old movies did far more damage to the Filipino's mental health than the text jokes he finds offensive.

Bohol Rep. Ernesto

SOTTO/ A5

BACK home in the arms of their parents, Esmeraldo and Klara Burgos, are Kevin Joshua, 9 and James Stephen, 6, rescued by the PNP Special Action Forces from their kidnappers in Legazpi City on Friday. Three of the kidnappers were killed on the spot; the lone survivor, Wilfredo Pranes (photo at right), is immobilized by PAOCTF agents in Sto. Domingo, Albay. *(Story on Page A3.)*
EDWIN BACASMAS

Miriam can't be both judge and senator

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

IF Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago intends to pursue her candidacy for a seat in a special United Nations court based in the Netherlands, she should drop all plans to seek reelection in May.

This was what acting Foreign Secretary Lauro Baja Jr. told the senator in a letter dated Jan. 26. He told reporters that there would be "a conflict" if Santiago insisted on serving as both tribunal judge and senator of the Philippines.

Baja also informed Santiago that President Macapagal-Arroyo had instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs to continue campaigning for her candidacy, "as this has

MIRIAM/ A5

Second FRONT PAGE

'GMA aides acted in bad faith'

BY GIL CABACUNGAN JR.

SPEAKING publicly for the first time since Joseph Estrada left Malacañang in disgrace, former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara yesterday accused President Macapagal-Arroyo's advisers of acting in bad faith during last-minute negotiations for a peaceful turnover of government.

In a speech before members of the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines, Angara said the new government reneged on a five-point agreement for a peaceful transition struck by negotiators from both sides.

Estrada is now claiming to have merely left the presidency temporarily vacant, which has raised legal questions on Ms Macapagal's claim to power.

But Angara, one of the few former Cabinet members who stayed with the former president to the end, maintained that Estrada has lost all legal claims to the presidency.

Angara said all signals were go when the agreement was finalized with Renato de Villa, one of the negotiators for the Edsa forces, at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20.

He was surprised to hear from De Villa a few minutes later that the Supreme Court would swear in then Vice President Macapagal as President.

"That's bad faith so I had to back out of the negotiations. I heard later on that there were parallel moves by the Vice President's other advisers while we were holding negotiations for a smooth transition in Malacañang," Angara said.

Angara stressed that Estrada was alert during the crucial hours of Friday and Saturday and that rumors that he was drunk were black propaganda.

"Being in Malacañang in those hours was quite an experience. The feeling of history in the making was palpably strong," said Angara, who is set to come up with a tell-all account of the dying moments of the Estrada administration.

"I often tell my friends that I lasted 13 days with the 13th President as executive secretary. That's not entirely accurate since the 13th day lasted 2 days long, having gone without sleep or rest," Angara told his audience.

Under the five-point agreement reached with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes, Estrada would have signed a letter agreeing to resign after five days or on Jan. 24, Angara said. Reyes was supposed to guarantee the letter.

Angara said the agreement also guaranteed the safety and security of Estrada and his family.

Estrada agreed to put the military and the Philippine National Police under the authority of Ms Macapagal during the five-day transition period, Angara said. The intent was to assure the incoming administration that Estrada would not make any mischief, Angara said.

Also during those five days, the infamous "second envelope" allegedly containing key evidence against Estrada would be opened in his impeachment trial.

Officials designated by Ms Macapagal would be briefed during the transition period, Angara added.

Angara's team first met with a negotiating team composed of De Villa, Alberto Romulo and Hernani Perez—at 1 a.m., Saturday. The next meeting—Perez was replaced by Macapagal's top aide Renato Corona—took place at 11 a.m. the same day.

Even though the Supreme Court intervened and rendered the agreement moot and academic, Angara said he believed "it was a success for peace and democracy that such an agreement was even reached."

The self-styled "peace broker" said he felt there was a need to hold the fort and open communication lines between Estrada and those on the outside even at the risk of putting his career and life on the line.

Angara said he sincerely hopes that that the new government succeeds because the price of failure would be too high for the country.

Palace backs Chavit immunity

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

MALACAÑANG is amenable to granting immunity to Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, citing his role in bringing to light the kickbacks and illegal gambling pay-offs involving deposed President Joseph Estrada which led to the former president's ouster.

"That is possible if he will agree to become a state witness," Presidential Spokesperson Renato Corona said, reacting to Singson's plea for immunity from suit in connection with the alleged misappropriation of P130 million in tobacco taxes. Singson claimed the money went to Estrada.

The Office of the Ombudsman is now studying Singson's request.

According to Corona, "the only requirement for a state witness is that you are the least guilty."

He said it would help if Singson can prove that he only acted on Estrada's order to serve as "runner or collector" in the *jueteng* operations.

According to Corona, Estrada appears to be the only principal in the plunder charges.

"So anybody could actually qualify as a state witness," he told Malacañang reporters.

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Erap mistress, pals face probe

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has created a task force to go after persons close to deposed president Joseph Estrada who have been linked to the rampant smuggling of sugar, electronic products and possibly even drugs into the country.

In a press conference yesterday, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said at least three persons alleged to be cronies of the former president, as well as one of his mistresses, are being investigated by his department after they were linked to smuggling activities.

Perez identified one of the cronies as Lucio Co, alleged supplier of smuggled goods to Duty Free Philippines. He refused to reveal the identities of the other two cronies and the mistress.

"I have organized a task force to check on the smuggling charges. I cannot reveal the names of those we are investigating but I have talked to (Titus) Villanueva of the Bureau of Customs and he is also creating a team to coordinate with us," Perez said.

Villanueva is the new chief of the customs bureau.

Perez said he is in the process of naming members to the task force, which will be headed by the Bureau of Customs.

An unidentified source, however, said the mistress under investigation was Guia Gomez.

When reporters asked Perez about Gomez's involvement in smuggling, he only smiled and said he could not confirm it at the moment.

Perez said the task force would also look into the bank accounts of Estrada at Citibank which have been frozen, "to find out if they were included in the statement of assets and liabilities of the ex-president."

Perez said if the accounts were not listed in Estrada's SAL, then "he might have some legal responsibilities."

At the height of Estrada's impeachment trial at the Senate in January, former finance secretary Edgardo Espiritu testified that he often saw known smugglers in the company of the ex-president in Malacañang.

When he was pressed by some senators to name the smugglers, however, Espiritu balked, saying the persons were powerful and he feared for his life.

Co had been investigated before in connection with the smuggling of frozen chicken into the country, which found its way to duty free stores he owned.

Co at the time was perceived to be close to Estrada and nothing came of the investigation.

Gloria to PNP: Thank you for your support

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday promised reforms for the Philippine National Police, as she lauded the force for turning the tide in her favor during the popular revolt that ousted her predecessor last Jan. 20.

"For your valor and heroism, *maraming salamat* (thank you)," she said.

In a speech marking the tenth anniversary of the PNP at Camp Crame, Quezon City, Ms Macapagal also told the police to follow the standard she has set for her Cabinet and for government.

"First we must be trustworthy. We must earn the people's trust by being honest, reliable and accountable in all our actions," she said.

The standard also calls for government officials, including policemen, to maintain a "simple lifestyle," she added.

"We must live in a manner that would not cause people to doubt our integrity," she told members of the force that had become notorious for graft and ineptitude.

Speaking three days after she had warned of plots to destabilize her government, Ms Macapagal asked the police to "remain apolitical and not allow yourselves to be subverted by the demands of political patrons or economic kingpins.

"I expect (PNP chief Leandro) Mendoza to pursue needed reforms vigorously and to give to our people the sense of peace and security they deserve," she said.

She promised to study pay hikes and other benefits for the poorly paid force but warned that the country is facing "the largest budget deficit in history."

The Department of Budget and Management had said the deficit could balloon to P200 billion if the government fails to curb expenses and increase revenues.

At the beginning and end of her speech, Ms Macapagal thanked the police profusely for serving as the "protector and kindred spirit of the people, especially on the defining day of our history, Jan. 19."

She recalled that was the day Mendoza "swung Camp Crame in support of people power."

The program was attended by former police and military men now in the Macapagal Cabinet.

Former president Fidel Ramos was also there. Ms Macapagal introduced him as "my esteemed predecessor and the predecessor of General Mendoza."

With AFP and AP reports

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Fil-Am sows hate on Internet

SAN JOSE, California—Al de Guzman posted his hatred and venom on the Internet for the world to see.

The 19-year-old college student arraigned in a Silicon Valley courtroom Thursday on 122 charges stemming from his alleged plot to slaughter classmates maintained a pair of websites paying tribute to mass murder.

"The hate on this page is omni-directional," De Guzman warned on one of his sites. "I usually update and add to the content when I am pissed, so don't get your f—— panties in a bunch."

The page pictured a screaming man holding a revolver to his head, and bore the title "Guns, Butter And Natural Selection!"

"It gives us a feel or indication of his state of mind," San Jose Police spokesperson Rubens Dalaison said Thursday. "Hate is what comes off those pages."

Detectives have yet to come up with a motive for De Guzman's reputed plot to use bombs and guns to slay fellow students at De Anza College in the San Jose suburb of Cupertino on Tuesday.

De Guzman—described by shocked friends as friendly, intelligent and creative—said little and kept his gaze directed at the floor during his Thursday afternoon court appearance.

He spoke softly when he told the judge he understood the 122 criminal charges against him.

Those charges stemmed from De Guzman's possession of 60 pipe bombs and Molotov cocktails, and his alleged plan to slaughter classmates beginning in the college cafeteria at lunchtime Tuesday, said Assistant District Attorney Karyn Sinunu. *AFP*

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May polls near but election body still in disarray

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

WITH crucial issues relating to the May elections still to be decided, the Commission on Elections is in disarray.

The new Macapagal government has yet to announce replacements for Comelec chair Harriet Demetriou and two senior commissioners whose terms of office expired yesterday, leaving the poll body with only four commissioners.

Among the pending matters that the election body has to decide is the proposed two-day special registration for first-time voters on Feb. 17 and 18.

The lack of a quorum in the Comelec's regular en banc session on Thursday again delayed the approval of the special registration, which Sen. Raul Roco had announced after a hearing of the Senate committee on electoral reforms and suffrage on Tuesday.

Aside from the special registration, the Comelec also has to approve the application for accreditation of the National Movement for Free Elections.

But Ma. Angelina Matibag, director for information and education of the Comelec, remained hopeful that the poll body can resolve these issues even without a new chair and replacements for retired commissioners Julio Desamito and Teresita Dy-Liacco Flores.

"The four remaining commissioners still constitute a quorum in the en banc," Matibag said. "Surely they can meet on Tuesday to resolve these matters."

The remaining commissioners are Luzviminda Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Rufino Javier and Mehol Sadain.

The Comelec meets en banc—the chair and six commissioners—every Tuesday and Thursday.

It failed to meet this week because of the lack of a quorum. On Thursday, when the special registration would have been discussed, only three commissioners—Flores, Desamito and Sadain—were at the Comelec building at the appointed time.

Matibag, in a memorandum, has asked the four commissioners to issue an official statement on the stand of the poll body on the three matters. These are: the two-day special registration; the proposed extension of the filing of candidacies to Feb. 28 from Feb. 14; and the manual system of counting in the May 14 elections.

Matibag said her office has been receiving a deluge of phoned-in queries on these matters from government officials, would-be candidates, students and concerned citizens.

"We cannot give official answers in the absence of a formal resolution from the Commission en banc," Matibag said.

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Cops rescue bank exec's 2 sons, kill 3 kidnappers

By The PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—A crack police team rescued yesterday two sons of a local bank manager who had been held hostage for two days by a kidnap-for-ransom gang operating in this city.

Albay police director Sr. Supt. Reynaldo Rafal said his men killed three of the four suspects after negotiations between them and church and local officials failed.

Rafal identified those slain as Aurelio Boras, Rogelio Lopera and Efren Lopera. He said they died on the spot. He did not say if the Loperas were related.

The fourth suspect, identified as Wilfredo Pranes, was captured and is undergoing interrogation, he said.

The suspects were from Sitio Parada, Barangay Buyo, Manito, Albay, Rafal added.

Esmeraldo Burgos, father of the kidnap victims, told police that at about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, he and his sons were in the family car on their way home from school when the suspects flagged them down on Capt. Fermin Aquende Drive.

Rafal said the kidnappers were armed with an M16 Armalite rifle, a grenade, a .45 cal. pistol and a .38 cal. revolver.

He said the abductors took the Burgos car with the children to the Reyes Beach Resort in Sto. Domingo, Albay, where they rented a cottage.

The boys' father was dropped off by the kidnappers somewhere in the city before that.

Rafal said that after receiving a report of the incident, he dispatched a police team to the area.

In negotiations with Sto. Domingo Mayor Nelia Balaoro and parish priest Fr. Eric Martillano, the kidnappers demanded a P2-million ransom and an armored car for their getaway.

The talks, however, fell through after Burgos, manager of the Insular Savings Bank branch here, said he could not afford to pay the ransom demanded by the kidnappers.

Burgos suffered a mild stroke as a result of the incident.

Later in the afternoon, Albay bishop Msgr. Jose Sorra joined the negotiations but also failed to strike a deal with the kidnappers.

In the meantime, Rafal said, his men positioned themselves around the area.

"We prepared for that. We got clearance from Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro Jr., our regional police director," Rafal told the INQUIRER.

He said the police would file charges against Pranes.

Rogelio Lopera was a municipal councilor of Manito and ran for vice mayor in the 1998 elections.

Burgos said Lopera was a depositor in his bank. *Job Belen, Rey Nasol and Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Judge's withdrawal alarms Mindoro solon

QUEZON CITY Judge Jaime Salazar Jr. yesterday inhibited himself from further hearing the double murder case against former Mindoro Occidental Rep. Jose Villarosa and six others.

Villarosa and his co-accused are charged with killing brothers Paul and Michael Quintos, sons of incumbent Mindoro Occidental Rep. Ricardo Quintos (LAMP).

Salazar, of QC Regional Trial Court Branch 103, disqualified himself saying, "It has come to the knowledge of this court that one of the contending parties in these cases is a bosom friend of the person whose personal efforts enabled the undersigned to become a judge.

"Consequently, it will not be proper for this court to continue presiding over these cases as the court's fairness and neutrality will most certainly be called into question," Salazar said, even as he declined to identify the personalities involved.

Congressman Quintos expressed apprehension over the withdrawal of Salazar.

"Judge Salazar cited a perfectly valid reason. However, we hope it had nothing to do with the death threats the judge has been receiving," Quintos said.

The murder case attracted widespread attention because of the long-standing feud between the Quintos and Villarosa families which had its roots in politics.

22 quakes rock Mayon

By Cynthia D. Balana

AT LEAST 22 temblors were detected around Mayon Volcano since Wednesday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said yesterday.

Phivolcs said moderate steam emissions were observed all throughout the earthquakes, although sulfur dioxide outputs decreased.

The government agency said the decrease in sulfur dioxide output may have been caused by the partial sealing of outlets due to growths in the summit lava dome. It said this means magma is rising close to the crater surface.

Phivolcs reported a faint glow around the volcano's crater Wednesday night, indicating the lava dome is active and may be breaking due to pressure exerted by the ascending magma column.

"The magma is ascending close to the crater surface," said Ted Sandoval, Phivolcs volcanologist.

Alert level 3, which means eruptions may occur in the next few weeks, remains within the six-kilometer permanent danger zone around Mayon.

People living in gullies around the volcano have been advised to be extra alert for lava flows that may be generated by sudden explosions.

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	5J - 451/161*	Daily	0510	0725		
	5J - 561	Daily	0700	0810		
	5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010		
	5J - 565	Daily	1100	1210		
	5J - 567	Daily	1300	1410		
	5J - 569	Daily	1500	1610		
	5J - 571	Daily	1700	1810		
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	0500	0640	P3,307	P2,649
	5J - 963	Daily	0700	0840		
	5J - 965	Daily	1240	1420		
	5J - 567/597**	Daily	1300	1530		
	5J - 967	Daily	1510	1650		
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	0510	0635	P3,295	P2,649
	5J - 383	Daily	0930	1055		
	5J - 385	Daily	1100	1225		
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	0610	0720	P2,449	P2,199
	5J - 655	Daily	1210	1320		
	5J - 657	Daily	1400	1510		
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	0510	0610	P2,199	P1,999
	5J - 455	Daily	0950	1050		
	5J - 457	Daily	1420	1520		
BACOLOD	5J - 473	M/T/Th/Sat	0530	0630	P2,199	P1,999
	5J - 473	W/F/Sun	0620	0720		
	5J - 475	Daily	1000	1100		
	5J - 479	Daily	1630	1730		
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	0600	0730	P3,295	P2,399
	5J - 563/431**	M/W/Th/Sat	0900	1155		
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	0530	0630	P2,049	P1,799
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	1330	1440	P2,449	P2,099
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	0900	0950	P2,309	P2,099

*via Iloilo **via Cebu

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 560	Daily	0700	0810	P2,309	P2,099
	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010		
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210		
	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410		
	5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610		
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810		
	5J - 164/462*	Daily	1730	1945		
	5J - 572	Daily	1900	2010		
DAVAO	5J - 593	M/W/F/Sun	0810	0900	P2,089	P1,849
	5J - 597	Daily	1440	1530		
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/Th/Sat	1100	1155	P2,089	P1,899
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	1730	1805	P1,599	P1,449
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/T/Th/Sat	0830	0900	P1,449	P1,249
KALIBO	5J - 232	T/F/Sun	1120	1200	P2,089	P1,849

*via Iloilo

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,649
	5J - 594/564*	M/W/F/Sun	0940	1210		
	5J - 964	Daily	1240	1420		
	5J - 966	Daily	1500	1640		
	5J - 968	Daily	1730	1910		
CEBU	5J - 594	M/W/F/Sun	0940	1030	P2,089	P1,849
	5J - 598	Daily	1610	1700		
ILOILO	5J - 598/164*	Daily	1610	1805	P3,023	P2,579
KALIBO	5J - 594/232*	F/Sun	0940	1200	P3,588	P2,599
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/W/F/Sun	0920	1020	P2,199	P1,899
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 182	T/Th/Sat	0920	0955	P2,089	P1,749

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0715	0840	P3,295	P2,649
	5J - 384	Daily	1135	1300		
	5J - 386	Daily	1305	1430		
DAVAO	5J - 181	T/Th/Sat	1035	1110	P2,089	P1,749

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,449	P2,199
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510		
	5J - 658	Daily	1550	1700		

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	1130	1230	P2,199	P1,999
	5J - 458	Daily	1600	1700		
	5J - 462	Daily	1845	1945		
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0650	0725	P1,599	P1,449
DAVAO	5J - 161/593*	M/W/F/Sun	0650	0900	P3,023	P2,579

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 474	M/T/Th/Sat	0950	1050	P2,199	P1,999
	5J - 474	W/F/Sun	0810	0910		
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250		
	5J - 480	Daily	1820	1920		
CEBU	5J - 125	M/T/Th/Sat	0720	0750	P1,449	P1,249

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	0810	0940	P3,295	P2,399
	5J - 432/568*	M/W/Th/Sat	1235	1610		
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/Th/Sat	1235	1330	P2,089	P1,899
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/W/F/Sun	1100	1200	P2,199	P1,899

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0710	0810	P2,049	P1,799

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1520	1630	P2,449	P2,099

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,309	P2,099
CEBU	5J - 231	T/F/Sun	1250	1330	P2,089	P1,849
DAVAO	5J - 231/597*	T/F/Sun	1250	1530	P3,588	P2,599

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Fugitive French oil exec falls after 4 years

(From page A1)

"We were expecting armed security and we were prepared for the worst. When we saw him like that, we put our guns back in the car," said James Tosoc, one of the arresting agents.

Escorted by National Bureau of Investigation agents, Sirven smiled broadly as a crush of media people greeted his arrival at the Department of Justice in Manila. Wearing a green baseball cap with "USA" in red letters, a blue-and-white checked shirt and gray slacks, he joked as he jostled through the crowd and denied the allegations against him.

"I have no money in the Philippines," Sirven said. "Those stories about accounts of 20 million are rubbish, fabrication of newsmen."

The relaxed demeanor vanished when investigators brought out handcuffs.

"This is barbarian," he said, visibly angry. "I'm 74 years old. I won't fly away. It is forbidden."

The officials put the cuffs on anyway.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said French authorities and Hong Kong police provided a tip that Sirven's driver, Roberto Araza, was arriving yesterday morning from Hong Kong. He was arrested at the airport and questioned.

Based on information Araza provided, Sirven was arrested at 2:30 p.m. at his home in the Niugan district of Tagaytay City, where he lived with his Filipino wife, Vilma Medina, the mother of his late wife's nurse.

"Initial investigation showed that Sirven arrived in the Philippines from Switzerland in late 1997 after he fled France to avoid arrest and prosecution," said a Bureau of Immigration statement, adding that France accused him of absconding with $2 million.

The immigration statement said he had used several aliases. It claimed the family of his Filipino wife and some military and police officials helped him hide and that he reportedly lived in Quezon City from March 1997 until he moved to Tagaytay last October.

Domingo said Sirven had a fake passport in the name of a dead Frenchman, along with his own passport, which had no Philippine entry visa.

Valentine's gift

"We have practically been scouring the whole country since last February," Ricardo Diaz, head of investigation of the National Bureau of Investigation's Interpol office, told the Associated Press. "At the peak of the search, at least 100 men from five agencies were searching for him nationwide.

"He has a lot of money at his disposal, so he was always one step ahead of us. We spent the limited resources of the bureau and came up empty-handed until now. This is the advance Philippine Valentine's Day gift to the French people."

Sirven is being tried in absentia in Paris on charges of "misuse of company property," as part of the same trial in which former Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his ex-mistress Christine Deviers-Joncour stand accused of corruption. The trial is in its second week, but officials in Paris said Friday it may be suspended temporarily because of Sirven's arrest.

Deviers-Joncour was allegedly hired by Sirven to lobby Dumas, notably for the sale of six frigates to Taiwan. The court is not expected to directly deal with that case, still under investigation, during this trial.

A lawyer for Deviers-Joncour said she would ask for the case to be suspended.

"He is the only one, along with Roland Dumas, who can confirm the version of Ms Deviers-Joncour," said Sophie Bottaii in Paris. "I never rejoice in the arrest of a man, but his arrest is good news for my client."

Sirven was director of the French oil giant Elf Aquitaine International—now TotalFinaElf—and is regarded as the right-hand man to Elf president Loik Le Floch-Prigent, who is also standing trial with Dumas for corruption. Sirven's face is well known from the grainy pictures that have regularly appeared in French newspapers since he went into hiding.

France asked the Philippines in December 1999 to arrest Sirven, but there is no extradition treaty between the two countries. Immigration officials said last year he was subject to deportation. But they said they had been in hot pursuit of Sirven after then Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez ordered his arrest in April last year.

Not safe for criminals

"We're telling the whole world that, hey, we are back in business," Domingo said. "No longer is the Philippines a haven for alien criminals and fugitives. This is not a safe place for them anymore. So please don't come here."

On the eve of his departure last night, Sirven said he regretted having to leave the country, but he insisted he committed no crime.

"I hope the future of this country will be good. This is a wonderful country. A humane country," Sirven said.

Accompanied by two French policemen, Sirven was to fly to France today.

Sirven also took time to belie accusations that he stole billions of dollars from Elf.

"I have no money. These (accusations) are all fabricated. I have committed no crime," he said.

He also belied accusations that he robbed a bank in another country when he was a soldier during World War II, saying "that's not true. I did not do that."

Sirven appeared calm despite persistent questions from reporters.

Diaz said Sirven was arrested at about 3:30 p.m. at a house in Tagaytay. "But prior to that someone tipped us that his driver would be arriving from Hong Kong at about 10 p.m. today, so we immediately picked him up and brought him to the NBI," Diaz said.

With the help of Araza, Interpol and BID agents, accompanied by two French policemen, traced Sirven's whereabouts to Tagaytay City. *Michael Ubac and Gerald Lacuarta with Inquirer wires*

Miriam can't be both judge and senator

(From page A1)

already been launched officially."

"The (DFA) is therefore working on the premise that the honorable senator will not be seeking another term in the Senate during the May 2001 elections," he said.

The election for the 14 judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is set on March 13.

SANTIAGO

Santiago, the Philippines' lone candidate, will go up against at least 28 human rights and legal luminaries from around the world. The tribunal judges will be elected by UN member-nations.

Baja told reporters that Santiago's election would bring honor to the Philippines.

If Santiago is elected, she has to take up residence in the Dutch capital of The Hague for the duration of the trial that is expected to last for at least three months.

Baja told reporters that being away from the country for such a long period of time might not work well for Santiago if she also got reelected as senator.

"There would be a conflict, so I requested her to decide whether we should continue her candidature," he said.

Erap's friend

Santiago is a close friend and defender of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

At Estrada's impeachment trial, she was one of the 11 senator-judges who voted against the opening of documents that would supposedly back allegations of his ill-gotten wealth.

The DFA was reported to have been rethinking the government's endorsement of Santiago for the ICTY shortly after the Macapagal administration was installed.

But Santiago appears determined to pursue her candidacy.

Last week, she sent the DFA 200 copies of some of the law books she had authored, for distribution to the permanent representatives of every UN member-nation.

The Philippine mission at the UN office in New York filed Santiago's candidacy last Dec. 18 before the UN Security Council. The DFA launched the campaign for her election shortly afterward.

Philippine diplomatic missions abroad have officially submitted her curriculum vitae to their host countries and sought their support for her candidacy.

Last month, however, he expressed doubt that she would make it given the UN's decision to advance the date of the selection for the 14 judges.

He said the DFA might not have enough time to campaign.

Sotto told: You had it coming

(From page A1)

Herrera suggested that Sotto take in stride the derogatory text messages about him and 10 other senators who voted against opening an envelope allegedly containing key evidence against ex-President Joseph Estrada in his impeachment trial.

"I don't want to sound personal but they (Sotto and company) are not exactly the best persons to complain about whatever aggravation this phenomenal new medium brings on them," Herrera said in a news conference at the House of Representatives, referring to text messaging.

"After all, the public did not ask our movie censors to ban Sotto from the entertainment industry because of the toilet humor in his movies, which was far more insulting to our intelligence . . . than the hilarious text messages about him and the 'No senators,'" Herrera said.

The congressman added that instead of training their guns on cellular phone firms, Sotto and his like-minded colleagues should face up to the consequences of their vote.

Herrera homed in on Sotto and Sen. Robert Jaworski in particular, asking: "What did the two gentlemen expect after what they did? Adulation from the public for contributing to the destruction of our democratic institution by assisting the hand of Estrada in keeping that second envelope inside the Senate vault?"

SOTTO

"Blaming the medium for the message smacks of despotism to me," he added.

Herrera's outburst came on the heels of a hearing of the Senate committee on public services and trade where Sotto, along with Jaworski and Majority Leader Francisco Tatad, proposed an inquiry into supposed anomalies being committed by cellular phone companies.

They also accused phone firms Smart and Globe Telecom of releasing their cellular numbers to other subscribers at the height of the public outrage that led to Estrada's ouster.

Herrera scolded Sotto and Jaworski for their threat, among other things, to slap the phone firms with tax evasion charges for not paying taxes on prepaid cards.

"It is like threatening to curtail the civil and constitutional rights of a newspaper, or TV or radio just because its contents are found offensive by a few stupid men," he said.

"These text jokes are expressions of public disgust toward the senators' action. This is democracy at work. If cell phones had not been invented, these same texters would probably rush to Mendiola or to the Senate to hold a rally," Herrera said.

Stricter gun policy supported

A NATIONAL survey of Filipinos 18 years old and above taken in December last year showed that 83 percent favored a more restrictive gun policy.

The survey, conducted by Pulse Asia, also showed that only 16 percent supported a bill allowing owners to carry their licensed firearms outside their homes.

The findings are consistent with an earlier Pulse Asia survey where 64 percent of respondents agreed that guns and their proliferation are a major cause of crime and violence in the country.

Gumba, 51

NIMFA Marcoso Gumba, a businesswoman from Camalig, Albay, died last Tuesday of cardiac arrest. She was 51. She is survived by husband Henry and children Harriet and Julius Ray. They can be reached at tel. 889-48-65. She will be buried today (Saturday) at 2 p.m., at the Manila South Cemetery after a 1 p.m. Mass at the Funeraria Rizal on Libertad Street, Pasay City.

LOVE IS... AT *NAYONG PILIPINO*

Who says Valentine's Day exists only for Florante and Laura? Definitely not the Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF), as it claims **Love Is... Para Sa Sundalong Beterano.**

An early Valentine treat for the country's war veteran heroes of the Veteran Federation of the Philippines, the event is slated on February 10, 2001 (Saturday), 2 p.m., at the Bicol Region. A program of exciting games, gift-giving, and huge surprises provided by Nayong Pilipino employees will highlight this special date with the 200 valiant men and women.

Love Is... is Nayong Pilipino's annual celebration of the love month. It is aimed towards bringing joy through interaction with various sectors of society, which continuously shape Philippine history and culture. Last year's **Love Is...** was red-marked by a memorable day with the elderly of Hospicio de San Jose and Golden Acres Home for the Aged.

Also, NPF is inviting all college artists to join an On-the-Spot Painting Contest on February 24-25, 2001. The theme is *"NAYONG PILIPINO: Salamin ng Magandang Pilipinas."* Registration is ongoing until February 23, 2001 with a fee of P 100.00.

Love Is... Para Sa Sundalong Beterano is sponsored by Queensland Catering Services, Universal Robina Corp., Christine Distilled Water, Philippine Village Hotel, and PAGCOR.

For inquiries, please call the Park directly at 8323763/67 to 69. NPF is an attached agency of the Department of Tourism.

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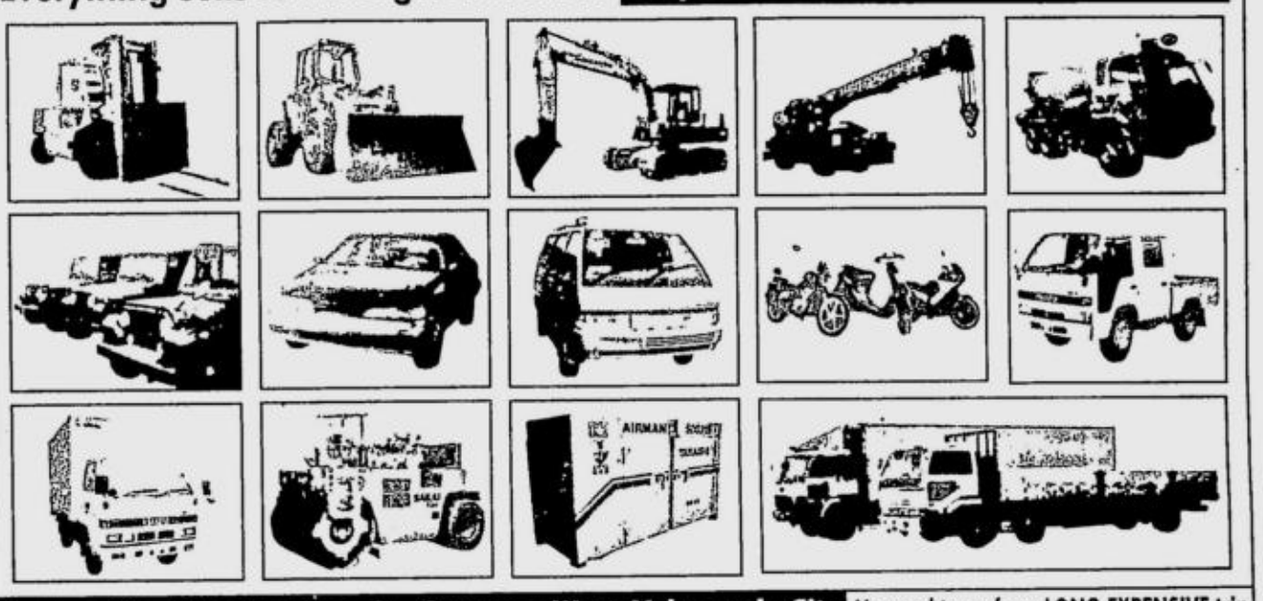

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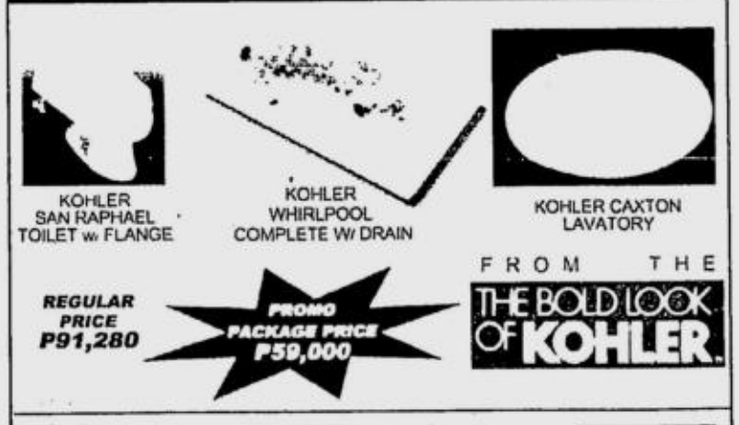

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Session I – Understanding Atherosclerosis
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- Oxidative Stress – A Therapeutic Target in Atherosclerosis
- Insights Into Roles of Genes Regulating Lipoprotein Metabolism
- PPAR-Alpha: Role in Lipid and Lipoprotein Metabolism

Session II – Assessing Atherosclerosis
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- Should Statins Be Used In Acute Coronary Syndrome?
- Fibrates or Statins In Diabetic Dyslipidemia?
- Can Statin Therapy Prevent Osteoporosis?
- What Do We Do With Children and Adolescents With Dyslipidemia?
- Can Anti-oxidant Supplementation Prevent Atherosclerosis?
- Is HRT Effective In Reducing Cardiovascular Disease?

February 6 (Tuesday)

Breakfast Session
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Plenary Session I
The Association of Hypertension, Diabetes & Dyslipidemia: Approach to Treatment

Congress Symposium
- Obesity: A Big Sized Problem
- Controlling Atherosclerosis: A Test of National Will and Resolve
- Hyperlipidemia in Diabetes: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Perspectives
- Atherosclerosis and the Kidneys

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- Diet & Atherosclerosis
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- The Central Nervous System (CNS) & Atherosclerosis

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February 7 (Wednesday)

Plenary Session II
S.E.X. – H.D.L. – An Ethnographic Perspective

Congress Symposium
- Hypertension & Coronary Artery Disease in the Philippines: The Real Score
- Challenges of Lipid Lowering Therapy in Atherosclerosis

How to Session I
- Expanding Possibilities in Risk Management
- How to Manage Risk of Macrovascular Disease in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes
- How to Manage the Risk of CHD in Elderly Dyslipidemic Patients
- How to Manage Hypertensive Patients with Left Ventricular Dysfunction
- How to Manage the Future Risk of Patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome

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OPINION

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Collapse of a coalition

EDITORIAL

WHEN former President Joseph Estrada spoke to members of his party, Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), at Club Pilipino on Wednesday, he was surveying a party in ruins. There were only a few hundreds who turned up at that forlorn meeting, and the atmosphere was one of gloom. The sight was a stark contrast to the salad days of the party which attracted adherents—albeit many of them fair-weather allies—when Estrada was still in power.

Estrada used the meeting of the remaining party faithful and stragglers to return to the public spotlight with the claim that he is still the president of the Republic, who has been only temporarily incapacitated by "events beyond (his) control." But the derelict status of his party is one important reason why his bid to regain the presidency from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is utterly lacking in credibility.

In the effort to show that the PMP is the political vehicle that would test Estrada's legal challenge to the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration in the May elections, the party dropped names for a possible senatorial lineup. Among them were reelectionist senators who have been discredited by their vote to suppress evidence in the impeachment trial, and some Estrada loyalists among governors and even officials who lost their jobs after People Power II.

The PMP ticket is doomed from the start. It is suffering from the stigma of Estrada's corruption. It is less endowed with resources to finance a national campaign. And the administration party, the revived Lakas-NUCD, is basking in the glow of the euphoria that followed Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency.

The PMP now has joined the fate of the once-monolithic Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) that monopolized power during 14 years of the Marcos dictatorship. Following the overthrow of Marcos, the KBL disintegrated, never again to recover during the return of democratic politics. Among the reasons for the disintegration of the KBL were that it had lost its center of gravity—Marcos himself—from which it was sustained by patronage, and that, since the party had no ideological cement, it had to come apart after the removal of Marcos. The same reasons are causing the dissolution of the PMP.

To add to the PMP's woes, the party has been deserted by two of its coalition partners in the LAMP. The coalition was the first to crumble after Estrada was toppled from power. Estrada, who never took parties seriously as political institutions in a democracy, regarded the LAMP as just a means of aggregating allies cemented by their access to patronage from the Palace. So disdainful was he of parties that he never registered the LAMP with the Commission on Elections, thereby preventing it from fielding candidates in elections.

This loose arrangement planted the seeds of the LAMP's disintegration. Upon the removal of Estrada from office, the three component parties were split and went their own separate ways. The Lapiang Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), headed by former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, is forming its own Senate lineup as well as fielding candidates for seats in the House of Representatives and local government positions. The LDP provided the machine for Estrada's presidential campaign in 1998, since Estrada's own party had more noise than bite. It had no national organization. The LDP aims to be the core of a new opposition, but it is also handicapped by its association with Estrada.

The third party in the coalition, Edgardo "Danding" Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition, has also been cast adrift by the departure of Estrada from Malacañang and the collapse of the LAMP. The NPC and LDP plan to merge into an opposition coalition with a Senate ticket that could provide sanctuary to such discredited politicians as Ernesto Maceda, Estrada's unlamented spokesperson in the impeachment trial, and Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, among other people.

It is an indication of Estrada's loss of power and his abandonment by his friends that Angara's LDP and Cojuangco's NPC are distancing themselves from him to escape being dragged down to a political disaster in the May elections. At the rate the Estrada coalition is disintegrating, one would think that the new majority coalition would have a clean sweep of the 12 vacant seats in May. But it should not be too complacent. The squabble for places in the Lakas Senate ticket could diminish its advantage.

Pardon by exile

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ALLOWING Joseph Estrada to go into exile is ill-advised. It would in effect get him off the hook for all the misdeeds he has committed. He cannot be pardoned at this time because he has not yet been convicted of any offense by final judgment. But President Macapagal-Arroyo's offer, if Erap chooses to accept it, would operate as a de facto pardon. It would place him beyond the reach of our courts, and by the unwitting (?) grace of the new administration.

The reason is that, unless he is first investigated and subsequently arraigned, Erap cannot be tried when he is already enjoying his liberty in some hospitable asylum tolerant of his offenses against the Filipino people. Under our Constitution, a person accused of a crime in our country can be tried *in absentia* but only subject to certain prescribed conditions.

These are indicated in Sec. 14(2) of our Bill of Rights providing that "after arraignment, trial may proceed notwithstanding the absence of the accused provided that he has been duly notified and his failure to appear is unjustifiable." Arraignment is that part of the trial where the accused is informed of the charge against him and is asked whether he is pleading guilty or not guilty.

At the moment, no information has been filed against Estrada. Ombudsman Aniano Desierto has given his staff as many as 60 days within which to conduct a preliminary investigation of the complaints now pending in his office. While they are pondering these cases, Erap may simply take advantage of President Macapagal's offer, skip the country, and render useless all the present efforts to prosecute and convict him.

The government evidence of plunder, which is the principal offense imputed to Estrada, should not take long to collate and evaluate. The prosecution in the Senate trial has already uncovered the complicated and secret bank accounts that the defense tried to conceal. With the hundreds of thousands of telling exhibits and the equally damaging declarations of Edgardo Espiritu et al against him, Estrada's conviction is inevitable.

Bribery is another serious charge that should also not require much time to substantiate. The ledgers alone of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson as supported by the credible testimony of the other prosecution witnesses should establish a *prima facie* case to justify the filing of the corresponding information against Erap. Add to this the contents of the second envelope that the Craven Eleven sought to suppress, and there's no way their fallen hero can evade a guilty verdict.

Desierto does not have to meditate for as long as two months before reaching a decision on the Erap charges. His task is already cut out for him because of the groundwork earlier made by the House prosecution panel to prove the impeachment charges. Unless Desierto intends to temporize as usual, he should be able to indict Estrada soon so the accused can be formally arraigned before he can escape.

Once Erap pleads not guilty, he may go into exile with the blessings of President Macapagal. But the trial may still proceed against him, at which he will be considered to have forfeited the right to defend himself because of his absence. The other two conditions, to wit, proper notice and unjustifiable failure to appear at the trial, will be deemed also observed. And as may be expected—unless another miracle happens—Erap will be convicted on the basis alone of the unrebutted prosecution evidence.

While conviction by final judgment is a condition precedent for a presidential pardon, Art. VII, Sec. 19, of the Constitution can be circumvented by President Macapagal's offer to permit Estrada's exile. That offer, if Erap chooses to accept it, will relieve him of all liability for each and every one of his offenses even before the filing of a single indictment against him.

In addition, all the government's efforts to recover the loot he has plundered during his two years of depredation will be compromised. The law provides that ill-gotten wealth will be forfeited to the State, but only if the accused is convicted under Rep. Act No. 1379 and other related statutes. There cannot be any such ruling, of course, if Erap cannot be prosecuted at all because he has fled before being formally charged and arraigned.

The present government's attitude toward the deposed president is ambivalent. On the one hand, President Macapagal has declared that "justice will take its course," presumably meaning that the prosecution of Estrada will be pursued to the full extent of the law. On the other hand, she is now offering to allow him to go into exile and abort his prosecution by simply leaving the country before he can be arraigned.

Even Justice Secretary Hernando Perez is caught in his inconsistencies. He has said the Erap is free to go wherever he likes; but almost in the same breath, he admits that there is a hold-departure order that will prevent him from accepting President Macapagal's generous offer of exile. Poor Mr. Estrada must be more confused now than he ordinarily was when he was president.

President Macapagal obviously agrees with Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. that Estrada's presence in the country is a threat to the national security. This was the same timid posture of the Aquino administration when it refused to allow Marcos and his family to return to the Philippines in 1989. The petitioners lost in Marcos v. Manglapus, 177 SCRA 668, by a vote of 8-7. But when they finally returned that same year, they created nary a stir except among a few noisy loyalists. In my dissent on the motion for reconsideration, I wrote:

"Nothing important has happened to change my vote to grant the petition. The death of Marcos has not plunged the nation into a paroxysm of grief as the so-called 'loyalists' had hoped. By and large, it has been met with only passing interest if not outright indifference from the people. Clearly, the discredited dictator is in death no El Cid. Marcos dead is only an unpleasant memory, not a bolt of lightning to whip the blood."

The pro-Estrada threat is a mere bugaboo. The deposed demagogue is despised not only by the people who rallied at Edsa but also throughout the land, including the rural areas. He is no Napoleon returning from Elba. He cannot command a toothless army. Instead of being allowed to go scot-free, Estrada should be detained in this country for prosecution, trial and punishment in accordance with law and justice.

'Panguuto sa bayan'

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THERE is a hilariously funny scene in an old movie, where the wife catches her husband in bed with another woman in a hotel room. Outraged, she demands to know who the other woman is. But she is totally ignored by her husband, who, as the other woman rushes off, calmly puts on his clothes, combs his hair, slips on his shoes and fixes the bed. After all traces of illicit activity have been removed, he turns to his wife, and asks, "What woman?" And then he doggedly sticks to his story until the wife begins to think that perhaps she is hallucinating.

Joseph Estrada's antics at the Club Filipino three days ago were reminiscent of the errant husband in that movie scene. But funny is not the word I would use to describe them. And if he thinks he can get away with it the way the movie character did, he has another think coming.

Curiously enough, Estrada's performance also reminded me of Imelda Marcos and her selective memory and her unique views that were so totally divorced from reality. As I recall, among other things, Marcos could describe herself as penniless or as filthy rich (either inherited or the result of excellent lawyering or tremendous business acumen on the part of her husband), depending on her mood, her audience or the exigencies of the situation.

In Estrada's case, he too does not let the truth get in the way of his story. His departure from Malacañang was recorded on film and audio. From what was reported, at no time during his goodbyes did he announce that his departure was temporary. Neither did any of the people to whom he was bidding goodbye think that he was coming back any time soon, as some were openly crying. What is more, his overall mien—sad, depressed, leaning on his wife (the picture of his arm around his wife's shoulder may be the only time he showed his wife any affection in public—and Loi looked radiant)—was not that of a person who was merely taking a leave of absence.

Yet, two or three days later, he sent a conveniently antedated letter to Senate President Nene Pimentel to the effect that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was President only in an acting capacity. And then, 11 days later, he appears in public for the first time after being deposed, and comes out with his I-am-still-president statement, to the cheers of his audience. He also proclaims that he is not leaving the Philippines because he wants to answer the charges against him.

Okay. So we all know that he is taking the Macapagal-is-only-acting-president line in order to postpone facing the music (the Constitution gives the president immunity from suit). And it follows that if he cannot be charged, he will not have to answer the charges. We know exactly why he is doing what he is doing. And we know he doesn't give a damn whether the country falls down around his ears while he is doing it.

But what is the excuse of the people who were surrounding him during this performance, some grinning from ear to ear? They were acting as if their man had not been caught with P10 billion to P15 billion (according to private prosecutor Toy Nepomuceno) in unexplained wealth in the form of bank deposits. Or worse, they were acting as if they didn't care—as if it were no big deal.

What makes those people—who are neither deaf, dumb, blind nor have IQs below 50—encourage Estrada in his delusions and his machinations? They were at the Club Filipino in connection with some kind of convention of Estrada's political party, Partido ng Masang Pilipino. Which leads to a whole slew of questions.

Do their cheers and expressions of support mean that they are sure of his innocence, or does this mean that they will support him, right or wrong? Do they think that the witnesses against Estrada during the impeachment trial, whom they all must have heard and watched, were lying through their teeth, or are they so cynical that they don't give a damn? Has it not occurred to them that the magnitude of the amounts accumulated in such a short time (one story attributed to Estrada while he was in his cups was his supposedly bragging that a high-school dropout who had P40 billion wasn't such a failure after all) brings up the specter of involvement in illegal drug activities? Or are they clinging to the theory that Estrada was just lucky to have so many generous friends who did not expect, nor were they given, any favors in return?

Are they so innumerate that they cannot multiply the $3.3 million that Estrada admits is his (he is filing suit against the BIR for freezing the account—what chutzpah) by 50, or even 40, or even 20, to come out with at least P66 million as cash in bank and in only one bank at that? And can they not compare this with the P6 million or so cash in hand and in bank that he declared in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities?

Is lying under oath (the SAL is signed under oath) a cause for concern, or is it so commonplace to them that it is no longer of any relevance?

Is country of overriding importance to them, or does it take second, or third place to personality or party?

Is this a case of "birds of a feather flock together," or a case of I use you and you use me?

Estrada's peroration in Club Filipino was reportedly described as a *"sumbong sa bayan"* by a fond supporter. I disagree. The more accurate term would be *"panguuto sa bayan."*

As I said in the beginning, Estrada will not get away with it. And neither will his cohorts.

Barbo explains Nene's behavior

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MY good friend from our street-marching days, former Eastern Samar Gov. Lutgardo Barbo, the Senate secretary and clerk of the now defunct impeachment court, wrote to say that I was "both right and wrong" in my assertions about Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. Barbo said I was right when I said "rather derisively" that Pimentel was "difficult to fathom" during the first half of the impeachment hearing. I had written earlier that many shared my feeling that Pimentel was leaning too much toward Estrada in those weeks, but that his "conversion" became manifest when the trial resumed early last month.

Barbo said that on Pimentel's shoulders fell the "heavy yoke of responsibility" to preserve the integrity of and confidence in the Senate as an institution and that he was "leaning toward the evidence and the truth," having sworn to uphold the "cold neutrality of an impartial judge." He said he had told the Senate chief during one of their many discussions that many of their comrades in the old parliament of the streets were disappointed that he was "not showing his anti-Erap colors." Pimentel's retort, Barbo said, was that he would "yet surprise them."

* * *

The Senate secretary also asserted that I was wrong in opining that Pimentel ought to explain why the Jericho March of Dec. 7 was violently stopped in front of the Senate, and why Cory Aquino, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and other leaders were harassed. I wrote that a frantic SOS had to be sent to Senators Tito Guingona and Franklin Drilon to "rescue" the beleaguered march leaders.

Barbo asserted that upon learning that the former President, GMA and the rest of the Jericho marchers were near the Senate grounds, Pimentel gave him specific instructions to allow them to proceed. He said he personally relayed Pimentel's orders to Police Director Edgardo Aglipay, but the latter adamantly refused to let marchers proceed as he feared violence might break out, considering that the pro-Erap protesters were nearby. Nevertheless, the instructions of Pimentel had to be followed. Guingona and Drilon, Barbo stressed, came later, and the marchers marched not only once but twice in front of the Senate building. Barbo opined that Pimentel had waged many political struggles and "would not and cannot curtail this constitutional privilege of our citizenry."

But the fact that cannot be denied was that the Jericho March was broken up in front of the Senate, despite the orderly behavior of the marchers. Anyway, thanks for the reply, Lutz.

* * *

Because the impeachment case filed against former President Estrada by Rep. Heherson Alvarez and 28 NGOs last October directly led to the unraveling of the Estrada administration, that is what will be written in the history books. But few probably remember that the first impeachment case against Estrada was filed by then Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Chair Manoling Morato in 1994, when Erap was still the vice president. The issue was Morato's allegation that Estrada imported from the US a Cadillac limousine in the name of the Erap para sa Mahihirap Foundation, to escape payment of customs duties. Estrada later claimed it was a gift from his US-based brother. The impeachment case was said to be quite strong since Morato had all papers, but to his chagrin, he found out that among the 42 members of the committee on justice, he had the support of only nine members, since the other 33 members were said to have been persuaded with about P100,000 each (*masyado namang mura*).

That impeachment case did not prosper, but with all the ruckus Morato raised, that controversial Cadillac had to be left with the Office of the Vice President, which paid the taxes on it. Erap's successor, Vice President Macapagal, ended up using the huge limo.

* * *

A name being pushed for health secretary is that of Dr. Benito R. Reverente Jr. who is not well-known to outsiders, but who has been involved in the DOH. Reverente is a good friend of mine and I know he can handle the DOH competently inasmuch as he has had wide exposure to various health care programs and has vast training in health administration.

A UP graduate with post-graduate training in general surgery in the United States and occupational health at the University of Sydney, Reverente is now chief of the Management Sciences for Health in the Health Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project, which provided a wide range of technical assistance to the program of former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez. He is also a senior consultant for health insurance at the DOH and PhilHealth, and until his retirement last year, he was president and CEO of PhilamCare Health Systems Inc., which he founded in 1982. PhilamCare is the largest HMO in the country, with over 300,000 enrollees and about 700 corporate accounts. He was also president of the Association of Health Maintenance Organizations of the Philippines from its inception in 1988 to 1999, and has done a lot of consultancy work in health finance development projects for various local and international agencies. One of these was USAID, for which he developed and implemented a pilot project on low-cost health plan. He also put together a basic health plan for sugar plantation workers in Negros.

* * *

My Carmelite friends at the Monastery of St. Therese in Gilmore, Quezon City have sent this urgent plea to plug the third of their year-long "Diamond Jubilee University Lectures" series, scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 7, featuring former Maguindanao Rep. Michael Mastura, who will be speaking on "Ethnicity, Religion, Cultural and National Development." The lecture will be held at the Manuel Quezon University on Arlegui Street, Manila, at 10 a.m. Mastura, a UP College of Law graduate, is one of the most articulate among our Muslim leaders and a popular veteran of the lecture circuit. Not infrequently he startles his listeners with his strong and unconventional views, but he is always interesting and relevant. Mastura's lecture should be timely in view of the new focus on the economic development of Mindanao by the Macapagal administration, instead of her predecessor's all-out war policy.

The lecture series is being conducted in cooperation with the leading universities and colleges of Metro Manila. Involving the students is especially welcome as it has been noted that Edsa Dos was basically the young people's political response. Mastura's lecture can help integrate the youth leadership's views with Mindanao leaders' efforts to secure harmonious, integrated development for the big island.

Oops, it's People Power time again

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"OOPS, it's hap'nin again," might well be a headline the editors of Time magazine could use for a story on the latest events in Indonesia. From this remove, current events in that neighboring country seem uncannily like recent Philippine history, an "instant" replay about three months delayed.

Like former President Erap, Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid faces charges of corruption, mainly involvement in the alleged misuse of funds from a state agency as well as of a huge donation from the Sultan of Brunei. In terms of venality and the amounts involved, nothing near the scale of Erap's plunder, of course. But "Gus Dur's" transgressions were deemed serious enough to warrant a formal censure from Parliament, raising the possibility of impeachment proceedings.

There is even the specter of "People Power," as thousands have been gathering outside the Parliament Building, the majority calling for Wahid's ouster, but with a vocal minority expressing support for the embattled leader.

And like President Erap, too, Wahid must contend with a woman waiting in the wings, Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri. And talk about parallels, she's also the daughter of a former president!

It's harder, though, to heap the same sort of vitriol on Wahid, who is Indonesia's first democratically elected leader in 45 years, as Filipinos did on Erap. Wahid succeeded Suharto who ruled over Indonesia for more than 20 years and left the presidency in a cloud of disgrace, economic disaster and race riots. Besides being a politician, Wahid is also a respected Islamic scholar, and he is apt to pepper his public addresses with mystic references and religious imagery. As far as I know, he does not have a Midnight Cabinet.

Indonesians must realize just how much is at stake in this political crisis—no less than the future of their democracy. Because the law gives Wahid three months to rebut the charges, he has enough time to regroup his political forces and perhaps work out a compromise. But he must have looked at recent events here with mounting horror and alarm. Here's hoping he learned something from it.

* * *

WHAT events in this country and Indonesia portend, though, is not a wave of instability in the region, though doubtless that will be the conclusion that Western media will peddle.

I'm more inclined to view these shake-ups as a necessary phase toward the maturing of young democracies, with citizens demanding greater transparency, accountability and efficiency from their leaders. Where before corruption in high places was considered entrenched and inevitable, it seems that these days, a younger, better educated and informed electorate is no longer willing to tolerate such practices.

Though I'm dismayed that Indonesia's early steps as a democracy are even now faltering, I'm also heartened that their politicians are willing to go through a shake-up if only to strengthen their structures. Even the massing of angry crowds of protesters is a good sign, a symbol of the people's vigilance and sense of entitlement as citizens.

It's always a good sign when ordinary folk feel it their right and duty to help shape the kind of government they will live under.

* * *

LATE last year, I wrote in this column about the impending opening of the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium (SBME), which would feature a marine mammal show and even offer special guests a chance to "swim with the dolphins and (false) killer whales."

A TV news report says the opening of the Exploratorium has been postponed to March this year, though the footage showed that much of the infrastructure has been completed.

Environmental groups, though contend that the reason the SBME's opening has been delayed is that the project still does not have an environmental impact assessment from the Environmental Management Bureau, and that even government officials in the concerned agencies, such as the Inter-Agency Task Force on Marine Mammals, are against this project. There are charges that despite the objections raised by the concerned agencies, the Exploratorium was railroaded by then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles, Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, and SBMA Chair Tong Payumo. Environmentalists say the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources "still does not have standards by which to accurately monitor this particular dolphin show attraction."

* * *

IN A POSITION paper, environmentalist and publisher Lory Tan has this to say of the project, which its promoters claim will be a "world-class tourist attraction" doubling as a research and conservation project: the "SBME is nothing more than a business. It is not a genuine conservation program.

"It is not a genuine research program. It is not even a successful captive breeding program. It is not community-based. It will not create significant new livelihood opportunities. It runs directly against the long-standing national policies and efforts on marine mammal conservation.

"It has been rejected by local NGOs involved in marine mammal work. It was previously denied permission under the Ramos administration. It obtained its permits through connections with the Estrada administration.

"It is part of a sunset industry that is being rejected by the First World.

"It will project the image that the Philippines is out of step with prevailing conservation programs throughout the world.

"It must be closed down."

Tomorrow, we'll go into Lory's charges in greater detail. For now, though, we must ask why, if no environmental clearances or studies have been submitted or granted, construction of the Exploratorium was allowed to proceed as swiftly as it has. Promotion of the project, including a briefing I was given during a visit to Subic, focuses on its potential as a tourist site and venue for wholesome family entertainment. It's time the environmentalists and animal welfare advocates were heard, too.

Forgotten Filipinos (1)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

ENGLISH Gen. George Gordon was quoted as saying that Filipino soldiers "are fine, sturdy body of fellows, faithful and long-suffering, bearing hardships without murmur, plucky, and never losing heart in defeat." A contingent of soldiers fought in a war in China under Gordon.

In the war in Indo-China in 1862, Filipinos again demonstrated bravery and valor. Among those who fought there were Doroteo de Guzman and Pioquinto Graba. In the attack and occupation of Vinh-loung on March 25, 1862, De Guzman was the first to enter the fort and Graba secured two banners of the enemy, killing those who carried them. French historians pay tribute to the Spanish-Filipino forces that fought beside the French. In the most important and dangerous battles of that campaign, the Filipino soldiers played a predominant role.

Gen. Ramon Blanco wrote in a letter dated March 17, 1895 addressed to General Lopez Dominguez, Spanish minister of war, regarding an encounter with Muslims: "With respect to the comportment of these troops, I would like, my general, that you would have seen them. All eulogy pales. Two repealed attacks discourage and disturb the best troops. These, on the contrary, become each time more inflamed and more daring."

On Feb. 22, 1895, a royal order was signed honoring a simple soldier, Canuto de la Cruz Sama, with the silver cross of the Order of San Fernando. Cruz belonged to infantry, line No. 74. The award was given in recognition of extraordinary heroism in combat with Muslims on April 23, 1894 in the forests of Kabasaran where he fought off four men, killing one of them. He also received a pension of 400 pesetas annually.

Cruz wasn't the only one who received this honor. Gervasio Herrera Samonte, a Filipino corporal, also received the same medal for heroic deeds on July 19, 1894. (These are of course little people and no one pays much attention to them, which is the tragedy of this country. If this weren't so, wouldn't the countryside have been developed long ago? And would not our farmers have been part of a middle class by now?)

Because the idea of "first" is always engaging, here is a list of the first government nurses under the Americans: Apolonia Salvador (Ilocos Sur), Baldomera Garcia (Albay), Hermenegilada Flores (Negros Occidental), Marcelina Nepomuceno (Pampanga), Modesta Jamias (Zambales), Ramona Cabrera (Cebu). These however were not the first graduates of the Hospital de San Pablo. The first Filipina nurses who graduated on June 16, 1910 were: Consuelo Gloria (Manila), Cristeta Montejo and Florencia Espina (Leyte), Pura Delgado (Iloilo), Rosalina Fajardo (Pampanga) and Rosario Pastor (Batangas).

Graduates Candida Goko (Cavite), Quintana Bele (Nueva Ecija) and Veneranda Sulit (Pandacan) were from the Hospital de San Lucas together with the 12 previously mentioned. On scholarship from the government, they did their apprenticeship in the Hospital of San Lucas in 1907. The Hospital de San Lucas sent Sulit, Bele and Goko for postgraduate studies in the United States, and they returned to the Philippines a year later.

The scholarship program for nurses was started by a Miss Coleman, director of the dormitory for wards of the state. She conceptualized the idea under the sponsorship of Dr. Barrows, then director of education. Between the two of them, they brought it to the attention of Secretary of Public Education Shuster, who was unenthusiastic. He thought the Filipina too finicky and prim to be an effective nurse (little did he know), unable to adjust to the sacrifice required of nurses considering it more proper for paid servants rather than a dignified and altruistic profession. But to his credit, Shuster despite his misgivings approved the project.

In 1908, the Philippine Commission approved in 10 scholarships with a stipend of P250 yearly. A year later Drs. Musgrave and McDill, directors of the Hospital de San Pablo, and a group of women headed by the wife of a magistrate named Tracey proposed to establish in the same hospital six nursing scholarships. The donors were Germinal, Señores Saz Orozco, C. Lopez, A. Barretto, A. Roxas and C.A. Arellano and Drs. Bautista, McDill and Musgrave. Señor Yangco wanted to sponsor 20 nurses for a year but the hospital lacked the capacity. It was decided instead to reduce the *pensionadas* to 10 and, instead of a year, support them throughout their studies.

In 1910, the Philippine Assembly passed Law No. 1975, placing the control of scholarships for nurses under the Department of Health and allowing men to apply for nursing scholarships. (Doesn't it make you wonder what the direction of this country would have been had the scholarships been for science and technology?)

(If you're wondering why we chose an obscure subject to do research on, blame it on the prominent media faces of former Estrada bosom buddies Atong Ang, Dante Tan, Mark Jimenez and Jaime Dichaves seeking accommodations with the Macapagal administration. Are they going to get away with it? Puke. Did you get an eyeful of that Jimenez manse in Forbes? Say it isn't so, Chito. No way could Ben Hughes be responsible for those drapes.)

A sad day for the nation

Kate Facun

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MANY Filipinos have been rejoicing over the ouster of Joseph Estrada from the presidency. Most of them call themselves heroes of People Power II. But I myself believe that the Edsa Dos was a sad day for us Filipinos.

Let me be clear about this. I am not pro-Erap. The only reason for my sorrow is that we didn't learn our lessons from People Power I so that we had to do it all over again.

I recall that People Power I toppled a dictator by the name of Ferdinand Marcos, who was also a thief, a murderer and a scheming politician. I remember people rejoicing and having fun during those rallies. I was young then and was easily affected by the defection of some politicians and military generals. I welcomed them with open arms and even idolized them for supporting People Power.

Growing up made me realize that I shouldn't have been so taken by all of this. I have learned that Juan Ponce Enrile's fake assassination was the catalyst that allowed Marcos to push through his plan to declare martial taw. But Enrile's defection in 1986 made him a hero when we should have called him an opportunist.

We ousted Marcos in 1986, but have we received the kind of justice that we rightly deserve? The Marcoses are back in power and are living lavishly, using their ill-gotten wealth. The children of Marcos are confidently swaying their asses in the streets. Many of his cronies are back and running some of the biggest corporations in our country.

Many educated people have noted that Filipinos have a short memory. I believe that. We haven't made any serious effort to put the Marcoses and their cronies in jail and take back from them the money taken from our people.

What I fear most is that Edsa II will follow the same course. I am afraid that the people who are guilty beyond reasonable doubt of stealing from the national treasury will not go to jail. Those who were at Edsa should do whatever it takes to eradicate *trapos*, *balimbings* and opportunists and bring to justice Estrada's cronies like Lucio Co, Lucio Tan, Dante Tan, Danding Cojuangco, Jaime Dichaves, Atong Ang and many others whose identities the people don't know.

I hope that we will not quickly forget what we fought for or waver in our resolve to see political and social reforms.

For starters, let us make sure that the May elections will be clean and honest and that our people will choose leaders who are capable, deserving, sincere, humble, honest and willing to serve the people instead of the other way around. Let us take a critical look at their motives, plans and work ethics. Let us not be swayed by their popularity or their oratory. Then we will be proving that Edsa II was not in vain, and maybe we can truly be proud of being Filipinos.

I hope there wouldn't be a need for People Power III. For it the need for it arises, the world would think we are a nation of fools.

Kate Facun, 21, is taking up BS in Information Management at the Asia Pacific College.

Waiting to exhale

Chona Javellana-Rodriguez

BEING such a stickler for punctuality, I was confident my first baby would come out into this world on the day my obstetrician predicted: Jan. 16. However, the day came and went, and there was not a single contraction to give out even a false alarm.

I had already taken my maternity leave a week before and my routine consisted of spending the mornings catching up on some reading, channel surfing and basically just being lazy. By 2 p.m., however, everything screeched to a halt as I stayed glued to the TV set, following the impeachment trial.

The impeachment proceedings presented themselves to me in many forms. Most of the time, they served some valuable lessons on the Philippine judicial system; especially when the legal analysts on the different TV stations explained the legalese and what was happening in the Senate. Keeping up with the mental calisthenics were enough to keep me awake during those ungodly afternoon hours.

But sometimes the trial was an absolute bore, especially when documents were merely being presented and painstakingly reviewed one by one.

I lived for those rare moments when lawyers from both sides and the senator-judges displayed either brilliance or stupidity. Such instances made for lively conversation pieces over dinner, which incidentally, we scheduled to coincide with the 20-minute breaks during the trial.

As the trial wore on, it became apparent that the chances of Erap's being convicted were very slim, the presence of damaging evidence notwithstanding. Slowly I started to lose interest on in the impeachment proceedings and simply watched the highlights of the day's trial instead of following it from minute to minute. I wanted the senator-judges to just get it over with and render their verdict, since it was clear that they had already made up their minds anyway. Carrying on with the trial was like dying a slow, painful death since I knew that Estrada had the numbers in his favor.

Going back to that fateful day of Jan. 16, I was bracing myself for the biggest event of my life, little knowing that I would be "overtaken by events" (a favorite line during Edsa II) and that my date with the stork would have to wait a few more days. My husband and I now believe that our daughter simply refused to be born as expected, not while the future of our country hung in the balance on account of the historic 11-10 vote in the Senate blocking the opening of the second envelope.

That same night, my in-laws trooped to Fuente Osmeña to join the thousands in voicing their outrage over the vote. The next three days had me in the latent stage of labor, with the end still far off. While I bided my time, my in-laws continued their protest in the streets to demand Estrada's ouster. That was Cebu's answer to the hundreds of thousands who gathered at the Edsa Shrine.

My husband, who was in Manila on assignment during those days, found himself in Edsa. So I was left at home alone and about to deliver my first-born. It was very frustrating not to be able to go out in the streets, but I participated in the text revolution by sending messages to anybody and everybody to update them on the developments. I reacquainted myself with the TV, this time taking in Estrada's trial now unfolding in the streets all over the country.

The events that followed in the next four days will no doubt be written about in countless articles, chronicled in history books and told and retold to Filipinos living and the generations to come.

I was not able to participate in Edsa I because my parents wouldn't let me. Back then, we were living in Manila and our house was a stone's throw away from Malacañang. But for some strange reason, it was safer to stay where we were than to venture out in the streets.

At Edsa II I couldn't be physically present either, due to my condition. Thank God for the cellular phone, at least I could say that I still managed to be a part of it the only way I could, under the circumstances.

To validate my theory, in the evening of Jan. 20, the day Estrada and his family left Malacañang, my water bag broke. I delivered a healthy baby girl 12 hours later.

Chona Javellana-Rodriguez, 29, works for a multinational corporation in Cebu City.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

Crass opportunism at Edsa

IT'S a lovely morning in Malate where I have been staying on this my second trip to Manila in 10 years. My flight to Frankfurt departs this evening but before I say adios I thought I should drop you a line.

I watched the Edsa II show the other day. At the table with me were a Filipino bookstore owner and an American lady who has lived here for 40 years. As I watched the screen, I was struck by a face that I had seen before and I asked my friend who it was. Yes, it was the same person I had met some years ago at a business symposium in Switzerland, except that he had added a pound or two plus some chin whiskers.

I recall leaving a seminar at this symposium and asking a Danish friend of mine what he found that was distinctly Filipino about this young man. The Dane, a shipowner with a huge fleet, said that rich families in the Philippines sent their children to North America to acquire knowledge. Fair enough; Germans study in America too. But this man's father had faithfully served Marcos as an ambassador until it became very politically incorrect to do so, and this son had lent his prestige, respected bloodline and Boston education to the Estrada administration as an economic adviser. The American lady said that was true, but he had resigned.

My point I guess is that I am dumbstruck by such exhibition of crass opportunism and wonder how it is that a man or his family can worm their way back onto the radar screen of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's administration without someone telling him to get out of there.

I see the same disease in Europe all the time and I thought it was a product of our tortured past, our expert way of oiling our way into and out of awkward situations. But I am told that this curious act of chutzpah was breaking out all over town on that day.

Well, may God bless the everyday, hard-working Filipino and continue to support his seemingly endless struggle to breathe clean air, feed his children and die without having to succumb to the "aesthetic of hunger" that his superiors in Makati have built for him.

My congratulations to you for publishing a good newspaper, even if at times it can be a trifle strident.—**HELMUT KAISER, 3714 Krupp Strasse, Frankfurt, Germany**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Racist slur against Chinoys

THE SPOKESPERSON of President Gloria Macapacal-Arroyo, Renato Corona, during one of his interviews on national television openly displayed his racial prejudice against Chinese-Filipinos by mimicking and making fun of their broken Tagalog.

This seems to be Corona's way of getting back at the entire Chinese-Filipino community just because a few of its members were implicated in the charges against former President Joseph Estrada. This kind of behavior coming from the presidential spokesperson of an administration that is but a few days old is uncalled for and does not augur well for an administration that seeks to heal a divided nation and rebuild a shattered economy.

May we then ask Corona to be more responsible and circumspect in his utterances in deference to the cultural sensitivities of the ethnic Chinese (aptly called "Huaren") who are also Filipinos by constitutional fiat. Like any Filipino, they are also entitled to equal rights and protection provided by the Philippine Constitution.

We therefore ask him not to judge the Chinese-Filipino community on the basis of the actions made by a few of its members but on the basis of the positive contributions to the goals of our country's economic development made by the greater majority.—**SONNY G. CO, spokesperson, World Against Racism Movement, 1465 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Stick to what is true

THIS is to belie the snide remarks of Belinda Cunanan (PDI, 1/29/01) regarding some of my actuations as Senate president in the Estrada impeachment trial.

It is not correct for her to assert that "to this day, the Senate chief has to explain how come the Jericho March was violently stopped in front of the Senate." Apparently Cunanan was not there when the incident she wrote about happened. The march was not "violently stopped" at all. In fact, when Sen. Franklin Drilon sent me a note saying that Cory Aquino and the then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo were stopped by the police, I immediately instructed the Senate secretary Lutgardo Barbo to make sure that they were not unduly prevented from completing their demonstration. They were thus allowed to do so.

As for her statement that I did not care to disguise my feelings regarding the demonstrations, let me say that I did not only not disguise my feelings but I also spoke out categorically against the demonstrations being conducted especially in front of the Senate while the impeachment trial was in progress. I was of the opinion, and still hold it to be correct, that while the trial was being conducted, the senator-judges should be left alone.

In closing, I do not mind her endorsing Sen. Tito Guingona for appointment as the vice president. Tito is a good man and would no doubt make a terrific vice president. But I would still like to ask her to keep the level of her commentary to what is true and right and fair.—**AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR., Senate president, 6th Floor, Senate, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City**

* * *

THIS pertains to Belinda Olivares Cunanan's column last Jan. 29 where she was both right and wrong.

She was right when she wrote, though derisively, that Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was "difficult to fathom" during the impeachment trial. The senator-judge took a very serious oath "to do impartial justice." As the Senate president, he was not only aware of the jurisprudential exhortation of the "cold neutrality of an impartial judge." Preserving the integrity of and public confidence in the Senate as an institution was the heavy yoke of responsibility that rested on his shoulders. He was never "leaning too much toward Estrada," he was always leaning toward the evidence and the truth.

I should know. Almost every day before the trial, we exchanged notes. Our discussions always revolved around finding the truth and getting at the evidence, or teaching the electorate some lessons.

At one point, I told him how much his friends and mine, especially our "colleagues in the parliament of the streets" were getting disappointed because he was not showing his anti-Erap colors. He told me he would surprise them yet. All along, I knew he would remain level-headed, keenly incisive and fiercely independent-minded. That's why the guy is my guy.

But Cunanan was wrong when she wrote that the "Jericho march was violently stropped in front of the Senate."

The facts are as follows:

Upon learning that former President Corazon Aquino, then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the rest of the Jericho marchers were outside the Senate grounds, the Senate president gave me specific instructions to allow the marchers to proceed to the front of the Senate building. I went out of the Senate impeachment court and personally relayed this order to Police Director Edgardo Aglipay.

Aglipay, the designated peace keeper, was adamant, fearing that violence might break out inasmuch as pro-Erap supporters were gathered nearby. Nonetheless, I insisted that the Senate sergeant-at-arms, retired Gen. Leonardo Lopez, coordinate with the police so that the Senate president's instructions would be be followed. I approached the marchers led by Laguna Gov. Joey Lina, retired Gen. Renato de Villa, Rep. Roilo Golez, Noel Trinidad and Chito Gascon and told them they could march past the Senate building, an area which was supposed to be off limits to protesters.

Then came Senators Teofisto Guingona and Franklin Drilon. They marched, not once, but twice, in front of the Senate building. This was captured by television cameras. Some newspapers bannered this picture.

The strict Senate security measures were relaxed to allow demonstrators to exercise their rights to free expression. The Senate president did not, would not and cannot curtail this constitutional privilege of our citizenry.

Pimentel has proven that he is a man whose principles cannot be swayed by personal or political kinships. His character has been tested by many political struggles he has waged for this country. He will not allow the people's basic freedoms to be stifled. He cannot exchange decades of personal sacrifice and toil for anything that will diminish the people's confidence in the democratic institutions he helped to restore.—**LUTGARDO B. BARBO, Senate secretary and clerk of the impeachment court, Senate, Pasay City**

Getting rid of an unhealthy environment

THE MACAPAGAL administration is a helpless infant crawling around in an unhealthy environment of *trapos* and political opportunists. Fortunately, there is civil society that has not abandoned its commitment to clean up this environment and to help cultivate the earth to allow the good seeds of Good Governance to take root and grow. The infant Macapagal administration is crawling on an environment still tainted and polluted by the following:

- The blight of traditional politics, or the politics of parties as opposed to the politics of principles and genuine service.
- The pest of nepotism, of "blood thicker than morality and faith."
- The bug of compromise and indecision peculiar to the *balimbings*.
- The virus of bureaucracy which alienates government from the people.
- The bacteria of pride, self-promotion, credits and billing.
- The plague of image-building and projection, of *pogi* points and now, perhaps of cute points rather than substantial policy and implementation thereof.

Yes we will give the Macapagal administration a chance. Yes we will give her new appointees a chance but we must emphasize the obvious fact that the Filipino people have been abused, oppressed and murdered not only by greedy, ambitious, immoral individuals but by a political and cultural system that has promoted and benefited from the latter.

In this light therefore, President Macapagal's appointments ought to be persons:

- Who see the need for deep systemic, cultural, moral and spiritual transformation.
- Persons who are thorough-going in their analyses of causes rather than of symptoms.
- Persons who will be willing to sacrifice personal good for the common good.
- Persons who are genuinely committed to the process of peace, justice and national cleansing, which necessarily involves everyone, themselves included and not only the identified culprits of the past administrations.

We in civil society will definitely be committed partners of the present administration in steering Philippine society toward the fertile earth of a renewed people, who like good seeds planted in good soil will continue to germinate selflessness, honesty, and a genuine love of God and country.—**FR. ROBERTO P. REYES, Gomburza**

URGENT APPEAL TO HER EXCELLENCY, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

THE UNDERSIGNED, ON BEHALF OF **SANDUGUAN**, (an aggrupation of 13 national farmers federation with 54 cooperative banks, and agricultural cooperatives) REPRESENTING SMALL FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THE APPOINTMENT OF **BULACAN REP. ANGELITO M. SARMIENTO** AS **SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE**.

WE BELIEVE THAT REP. SARMIENTO IS THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE POSITION. HE POSSESSES A PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING AND CONCERN FOR VITAL AGRICULTURAL ISSUES THAT ARE NEEDED TO CREATE A DYNAMIC AND GLOBALLY-COMPETITIVE CLIMATE FOR OUR SMALL FARMERS.

ASIDE FROM THE UNDERSIGNED, THIS HUMBLE REQUEST FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF REP. SARMIENTO TO BECOME THE NEXT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, IS ALSO SUPPORTED AND VOUCHED FOR BY THE FOLLOWING AGRICULTURAL GROUPS, COOPERATIVES, AND MEMBERS OF DISTINGUISHED ACADEMES AND RESPECTED PEOPLE IN THE FIELD OF PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE.

REP. BENJAMIN CRUZ
PARTY LIST REPRESENTATIVE
(FARMERS SECTOR)

PROF. EMIL Q. JAVIER
PROFESSOR OF AGRONOMY
FORMER CHANCELLOR-UPLB, LAGUNA
FORMER PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROF. LIBORIO S. CABANILLA
DEAN & PROFESSOR
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UPLB, LAGUNA

DR. RUBEN L. VILLAREAL
PROFESSOR OF HORTICULTURE
FORMER CHANCELLOR OF UPLB, LAGUNA

MS. NELIA T. GONZALES
FORMER ASST. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
HEAD OF THE BUREAU OF COOPERATIVES
FORMER REGENT OF UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

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FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
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ACTING GOVERNOR
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The WORLD
MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Cops nab Indons in Malay camp

KUALA LUMPUR—Amid government warnings that political unrest in neighboring countries could spur illegal immigration, Malaysian authorities arrested a group of Indonesians in a raid on a jungle hideout south of Kuala Lumpur, a newspaper reported Friday.

Police using flares on Wednesday night raided a camp near Port Dickson, about 60 km south of Kuala Lumpur, and arrested 24 Indonesians, The Star newspaper reported.

Police Superintendent Ismail Ibrahim said the group had arrived from Indonesia's Aceh province 10 days ago and were working illegally on a building site, the paper said.

The arrests came on the same day the government announced that security would be upgraded along Malaysia's borders with Indonesia and the Philippines because of fears that political unrest in those countries could spur illegal immigration.

Deputy Defense Minister Mohamad Shafie Apdal said military patrols along Malaysia's borders with the two neighboring countries had been placed on "high alert" to counter a "possible influx of people running away from political troubles at home."

Mainland Malaysia and the Indonesian island of Sumatra, where Aceh is located, are separated by the narrow Malacca Strait, while the countries share a land border on Borneo island. The southern Philippines and Malaysia share a border in the Sulu and Celebes Seas. *AP*

PARLIAMENT CENSURE

Wahid to cooperate but won't quit

JAKARTA—Indonesia's President Abdurrahman Wahid sought to ease tensions with parliament Friday, saying he would cooperate with the legislature after it formally censured him over two corruption scandals.

However, he continued to maintain his innocence in the two multimillion dollar affairs, which could pave the way for lengthy impeachment proceedings.

"The president will follow whatever (parliament) says," presidential spokesperson Wimar Witoelar said. "The president is confident in his innocence and asks the people to believe in his innocence."

Replying to a question about whether Wahid was considering resigning in the wake of Thursday's parliamentary debate, Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab, said: "No, not at all."

Their comments represented the government's first reaction since the legislature on Thursday overwhelmingly endorsed a report by a parliamentary committee investigating Wahid's alleged involvement in the scandals.

Lawmakers concluded that the president had broken his oath of office and violated a state decree to uphold clean government. They decided to send a formal reprimand letter to Wahid along with a demand that he address allegations against him.

If he does not respond satisfactorily within 90 days, the legislature can send another censure letter. A month after that it can start impeachment proceedings.

Parliamentary Speaker Akbar Tandjung said Thursday that Wahid's case would also be handed over to legal authorities for a possible criminal prosecution.

Thursday's events appeared to have had little immediate effect outside Jakarta's political elite, and most Indonesians reacted with indifference. The capital was quiet and no pro- or anti-Wahid demonstrations were reported elsewhere in the country.

Responding to calls for Wahid to step down, Shihab said: "These are statements from intellectuals in Jakarta and they are not representative of the whole Indonesia. (Wahid) still feels that the people of Indonesia support him."

Earlier this week, the parliamentary committee issued a report linking Wahid to the scandals, but presented no conclusive evidence that he had benefited from the schemes.

It claimed Wahid was involved in the illegal transfer of $4 million from the coffers of the state food agency, Bulog, by a former business associate. It also accused him of failing to officially declare a $2-million aid donation from Sultan Hasanal Bolkiah, the ruler of neighboring oil-rich Brunei.

The president has consistently denied any wrongdoing and has maintained that the push against him is politically motivated.

With the vast majority of lawmakers against him, Wahid's political survival hinges largely on the continuing support of his deputy, Megawati Sukarnoputri.

She has yet to comment, although Wahid maintains he has her backing.

Perhaps ominously for Wahid, though, it was her party, the largest in parliament, which led the charge against him along with the Golkar Party of former dictator Suharto. *AP*

MEMBERS of President Wahid's party (above) walk out from a meeting during a debate censuring the president (right) at the parliament building, Feb. 1. Indonesia's parliament overwhelmingly endorsed a report, which found that Wahid acted improperly in two graft scandals, opening the way for a possible impeachment. REUTERS

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P99 na lang

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Survivors fight quake nightmares

AHMEDABAD, India—Every time Priyanka Patel closes her eyes, the debris of her wrecked house rains down upon her.

Patel, 23, was trapped with her mother, brother and sister-in-law in their apartment after their four-story building crumbled during the massive earthquake that rocked western India last week.

Days after their miraculous escape, images of horror still haunt her.

"I can't sleep. I fear I might not be able to wake up again," said Patel, her neck in a cast. "I don't want to be alone. If I close my eyes, I see things falling down on me."

Across the wide swath of territory destroyed by the Jan. 26 quake centered in Gujarat state, Patel and thousands of other survivors are grappling with the painful psychological fallout left behind.

The physical damage is all too apparent. The 7.7-magnitude quake killed at least 10,593 people, and officials estimate the final toll will reach 35,000. The government revised the death toll down from 14,241 on Friday, citing clerical errors. The number of injured was 61,705.

The full toll may never be known, because many of the dead may have been cremated in remote villages or remain buried under flattened towns and cities. An estimated 600,000 people were left homeless.

Disease is a rapidly mounting danger. No outbreaks have been reported yet, but malaria, cholera and severe diarrhea are a threat to the homeless packed into camps with no running water or toilets and relying on communal kitchens for food. *AP*

LOCKERBIE CONVICTION

Gadhafi brushes image after verdict

CAIRO—Moammar Gadhafi says the man condemned to at least 20 years in prison for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing is as innocent as the acquitted man he welcomed home with a bear hug. And he says he will prove it—on Monday.

Only then, Gadhafi says with a smile, will he reveal evidence so strong it will leave the judges just three options: "to commit suicide or to resign or to admit the truth."

Despite Thursday's cliffhanger, confidently delivered in typically flamboyant fashion, the Scottish court's conviction of a former Libyan intelligence agent dealt a blow to Gadhafi's efforts to brush up his image and return Libya to the global community.

In the early decades of his 31-year rule, Gadhafi spent hundreds of millions of dollars in oil revenues to support "freedom fighters" in Africa, Ireland, southeast Asia and the South Pacific. Libya, however, hasn't been linked to any specific terror incidents in at least five years. Since then, Gadhafi has tried to swap his revolutionary image for that of a statesman and peacemaker in African disputes and beyond.

In 1999, he turned over the two Lockerbie suspects for trial, and won a suspension of UN sanctions on Libya. Last year, he won acknowledgment from France—and a thank you from Germany—for Libya's role in securing the release of six foreign hostages held by Muslim militants in the Philippines.

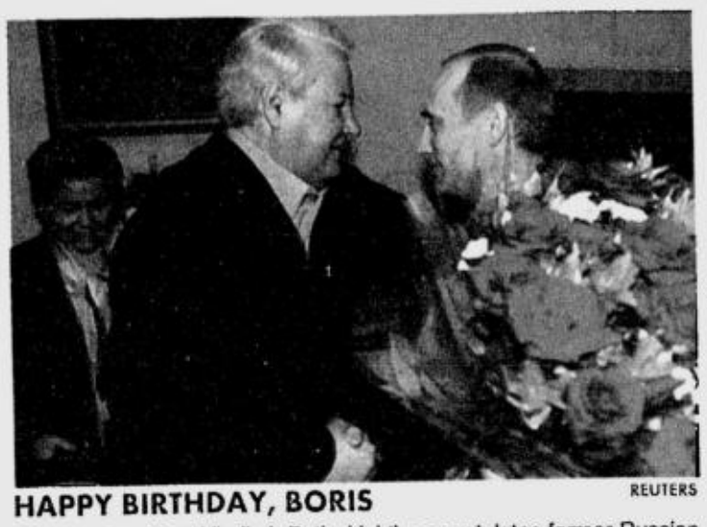
Such moves have been dismissed by critics as publicity stunts, but the lack of terror activity has been noted and led the United States last year to consider lifting the ban on Americans traveling to Libya. The State Department opted to extend the ban.

The Scottish court's verdict could harm Gadhafi's image because the judges not only convicted Lamen Khalifa Fhimah's codefendant, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, they also referred to him as a Libyan intelligence agent "occupying posts of fairly high rank."

Libya long has denied government involvement in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people, so the finding by a court Libyan officials agreed to and have taken pains to say they respect hasn't passed unnoticed.

The US and British governments say they still expect Libya to accept responsibility for the murders. Faiz Gebriel, a Libyan opponent of the Gadhafi regime, said the court gave them ammunition to go further—to try to force a change in the regime by going after Gadhafi through legal channels as a terror mastermind. *AP*

LIBYAN President Moamar Gadhafi (right) speaks to reporters with the acquitted man Al-Amin Khalifa Fahima (at his right) in Tripoli, Feb. 1. The Libyan strongman said that the Libyan secret agent jailed for life for the Lockerbie airliner bombing was innocent. REUTERS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BORIS REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) congratulates former Russian President Boris Yeltsin on his birthday at the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow, Feb. 1, when Yeltsin turned 70 who but had to spend the day in a hospital bed.

Barak remains in Feb. 6 poll race, faces Sharon

JERUSALEM—Palestinian violence overshadowed a political deadline early Friday for Prime Minister Ehud Barak, whose first act after it became certain that he would face hardliner and frontrunner Ariel Sharon in a Feb. 6 election was to denounce the killing of two Israelis in the West Bank.

Barak resisted pressure to stand aside and allow elder statesman Shimon Peres take his place as the Labor Party candidate even though polls showed Peres faring better than Barak against Sharon.

The Palestinian issue has dominated the campaign, and violence overshadowed peace efforts Thursday. Barak called off international efforts to arrange a pre-election summit with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat after an Israeli was shot to death while picking up his car at a West Bank garage.

Later another Israeli died when Palestinians opened fire on his car in the West Bank, and two Palestinians were killed, one by Israeli Army gunfire in the Gaza Strip and the other by fellow Palestinians who suspected him of collaborating with the Israelis.

In four months of unrest, 383 people have been killed, including 322 Palestinians, 13 Israeli Arabs, 47 other Israelis and one German doctor.

Barak denounced the killing of the two Israelis. In a statement Friday, he said security for Israelis means separation from the Palestinians, preferably by agreement, but if not, "we will initiate a staged security separation." Earlier he said a unilateral separation plan would require Israel to keep larger parts of the West Bank than under a peace agreement.

In peace negotiations, Barak offered the Palestinians a state in 90 percent of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with control over Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem and special arrangements for holy sites.

Sharon denounced Barak's concessions and demanded that Barak stop contacts with the Palestinians while violence continues. If elected, Sharon said he would not honor any agreement Barak reaches before the election. Despite intensive contacts, no accord has been achieved.

According to Israeli election law, parties could change candidates until four days before the voting on Tuesday.

The deadline removed a heavy burden from Barak's back: the virtual candidacy of elder statesman Shimon Peres. Because Barak has consistently trailed Sharon by double digits in pre-election polls, politicians and analysts speculated, suggested and pressed Barak to allow Peres to replace him as the peace camp candidate.

Though he was not a candidate, pollsters pitted Peres against Sharon every week and found them running even, while Sharon's lead over Barak has hovered around 20 percentage points.

Harried by constant questions about whether he planned to step aside, Barak said the real election campaign would begin only after the deadline, when voters who support compromise for peace with the Palestinians realized that Barak would be their candidate. *AP*

Riots flare in Kosovo for 4th day

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Yugoslavia—Mixing force with words, Nato-led peacekeepers talked some ethnic Albanian crowds into dispersing Thursday but fired tear gas and stun grenades at others rioting near a base used by French soldiers. Several people were injured.

As confrontations in Kosovska Mitrovica between ethnic Albanians and peacekeepers went into the fourth straight day, Nato's top general in Kosovo and the province's chief UN administrator met with local leaders in efforts to end the violence. Calm was reached by nightfall.

Lt. Gen. Carlo Cabigiosu and UN administrator Hans Haekkerup condemned the unrest in a joint statement urging "all citizens to remain calm and refrain from further acts of violence." They also called for more troops.

The city has been rocked by unrest since Monday, when a 15-year-old ethnic Albanian was killed in a grenade attack.

On Wednesday, demonstrators throwing rocks and fire bombs injured 21 peacekeepers. It appeared that most, if not all, of the wounded soldiers were French. *AP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

John O. seeks deal with brod, cousins to avoid 'backlash'

BY NAGIEL BAÑACIA
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Sen. John "Sonny" Osmeña has made the first step to make peace with his estranged brother, Lito, and cousin Tomas "to prevent (a) political backlash against the Osmeña clan."

Sonny said in a press conference here yesterday that Alayon, the local party he heads, would endorse Lito for governor of Cebu should Lito drop plans to run for senator.

He said the Osmeña clan would suffer if Lito pushed through with his plan to run for senator at the expense of their cousin, Sen. Sergio "Serge" Osmeña III, who is running for reelection.

He said the impact of two Osmeñas slugging it out in the Senate race would be minimal in Cebu but heavy on the national level as Serge and Lito could both lose if they both run for senator in May.

"I'm looking for a solution to accommodate Lito in the interest of the family," he said.

Lito, who heads the Promdi party that belongs to the coalition that backed the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was included in the senatorial slate of the ruling coalition.

Sonny also said he was prepared to withdraw his support from the reelection bid of Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia and instead support the mayoral bid of Tomas, a former mayor of this city.

But Tomas said his cousin's proposal came too late.

He said Sonny's offer was an embarrassment to the Osmeña clan because it showed that the senator was making it appear that he was "in charge" of Cebu politics.

"This is a form of arrogance. It's bad taste for our democracy," Tomas added. "Let everybody run for public office no matter if all the candidates are Osmeñas. Let the people decide on who is the best candidate."

Sonny, whose term ends in 2004, was considered as Cebu's top political honcho during the Estrada administration. He was one of the 11 senators who, during the impeachment trial, voted against the opening of a second envelope believed to contain bank documents that could prove that Estrada allegedly amassed ill gotten wealth.

Sonny yesterday said now "is not (the) time to talk about individual and personal differences" among the Osmeñas.

Serge yesterday said he appreciated Sonny's effort to resolve the conflict within their family but he, too, doubted if the proposal would be acceptable to Lito and Tomas.

War games deaths case called a 'whitewash'

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Sen. Sergio Osmeña will file a complaint against the prosecutors in Toledo City who dismissed the criminal charges against 39 American and Filipino sailors who were blamed for the death last year of two boys and the injury to another inside an abandoned mine site.

"I will file a complaint with the Department of Justice for grave abuse of discretion and ask them (the DOJ) to investigate (Jacinto) Cavada," Osmeña said yesterday.

"This fiscal has made a big mistake and probably, he should be investigated for this," he added.

Cavada is the Toledo City prosecutor who approved the recommendation of his assistant, Gabriel Trocio, to grant the motion to dismiss a case of double homicide with physical injuries through negligence filed against US and Philippine sailors involved in a joint military exercise.

Cavada said they were willing to face any investigation because the dismissal was in accordance with the law.

He said the victims' parents, through their lawyer Achilles Cañete, had signed affidavits of desistance indicating that they were no longer interested in pursuing the case.

The affidavits of desistance signed by Pedro Navales, Anselmo Gaviola and Patrio Villarmia stated that they believed the incident was an "accident" was a "will of God."

They also were quoted as saying that it was difficult to identify the "person responsible for the explosion."

Navales and Gaviola were fathers of Rolly, 17, and Arnel, 13, who were killed on Aug. 19 after playing with a live M203 grenade they found at an abandoned mining site of the Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. in Barangay Don Andres Soriano, Toledo, 50 kilometers west of here.

Their cousin, Jordan Villarmia, 10, was wounded in the explosion.

The grenade was used during and apparently left behind after the joint RP-US military exercise, dubbed as "Flash Piston" at the abandoned mine site.

Osmeña said the case should not be dismissed by mere affidavits of desistance and the motion to dismiss because it is a public crime.

If there was an out-of-court settlement, he said it should only cover the civil aspect of the case, he said.

Osmeña said it was also possible that the prosecutor may have yielded to pressure from the Philippine government.

"I'm accusing (the prosecutors) of whitewashing the case because we know that the Philippine Navy is required to take responsibility for the explosion," Osmeña said.

A cousin and neighbor of Pedro Navales claimed on Thursday that a total of P1.5 million was given to the victims' families in exchange for the dropping of the charges.

It remained unclear from whom the supposed settlement came.

Leodacio Navales Inanod, (not an ABS-CBN reporter as earlier reported) told TV Patrol Cebu on Thursday he had talked with Pedro and was told that each of the families of the victims received P500,000.

Of the supposed settlement, some P200,000 went to Cañete as lawyer's fees, he added.

Inanod said Pedro has spent almost all his share because he bought appliances and renovated his house.

Cañete, who is running as sectoral representative for Promdi, refused to confirm or deny that there was an out-of-court settlement.

He would only say that his clients executed the affidavits of desistance voluntarily.

In their affidavits of desistance, the parents also denied receiving any money in exchange for the dropping of the charges.

Cavada said he does not know anything about the out-of-court settlement.

If the reports were true, he said it was a good thing that the parents were compensated because the case was weak.

Cavada said there was no evidence that would point to who among the 39 sailors left the grenade, which later exploded and killed the boys.

"You cannot charge all of them (with) the offense," he said.

Osmeña, however, said there was circumstantial evidence because only the sailors were the ones who brought in live ammunition into the site.

TOOTS SOBERANO

CHANGING TIMES

A World War II veteran appears to be engrossed in keeping himself abreast with the latest news while another veteran at left contents himself with reading from a distance.

Mayor to file suit vs gov't-run gambling

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The huge revenues posted by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) have compelled the local government here to pursue anti-gambling cases against state-run gaming operations.

La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan said he was filing a case against the PCSO and Pagcor, adding that he was disturbed by the record P14.61 billion gross receipts posted by Pagcor from its casino and lotto operations, as well as similar gains recorded by the PCSO.

Both agencies had imposed the operations of the controversial Bingo 2-Ball and small-town lottery on towns like La Trinidad last year, "without the benefit of consultation," Fongwan claimed.

He said Pagcor and PCSO revenues reflect money generated from small towns that were unable to resist a Malacañang-backed directive compelling them to accept these operations.

Fongwan had asked the town council for a resolution authorizing the suit against the PCSO and Pagcor.

But the La Trinidad council only granted the town's legal officer the mandate to study the legality of lotto operations here.

"I received their resolution only on Tuesday, but I am returning it so they can include the authority for us to file a case. That was the intention from the start," he said.

Late last year, four Benguet mayors, including Fongwan, threatened to sue PCSO and Pagcor.

Fongwan said he was banking on a legal opinion issued by retired La Union Judge Braulio Yaranon saying that neither Pagcor nor the PCSO had the authority to develop new gaming operations like lotto or Bingo 2-Ball.

Yaranon said basic laws prohibit number games, although Pagcor and the PCSO had been asserting their agencies' special charters to legitimize Bingo 2-Ball, a variant of underground jueteng, as well as the PCSO lotto operations. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Baguio makes late effort to stop waste burning

BY AVIGAIL OLARTE
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The city government has unwittingly failed to curb the mass burning of garbage in the Irisan dump here for years now, spurring a multitude of health and environmental problems.

In a dialogue with Irisan scavengers on Wednesday, Mayor Mauricio Domogan persuaded them to stop burning garbage or they would be arrested and fined.

The uncontrolled burning of waste has been the practice of some 250 scavengers in the Irisan dump for years now. Though they have been given the same warning in the past, the scavengers said none of them has ever been arrested.

An irate resident of Irisan criticized the complacent efforts of concerned agencies in executing anti-pollution laws.

"If only local officials could get their acts together, the burning should have stopped by now," said Rose, who has been residing in Irisan since the 1980s.

Under the Clean Air Act (Republic Act 8749), burning of waste is punishable by a fine of P10,000 to P100,000 and imprisonment of two to four years.

DENR role

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau is mandated to monitor and implement this provision with the release of its implementing rules and regulations last year.

The DENR blames the city government for not doing its part. "Local governments are mandated to share responsibility in maintaining air quality within their territory. The city government has not been forwarding reports to our office so we could conduct arrests. Since it is their trash that is being dumped in Irisan, they should police the area 24 hours and submit reports to us," Rey Bautista, chief of the EMB's air quality monitoring division, said.

Romeo Concio of the city government's general services office said the DENR must share the blame.

"It's not clear to us. They are the ones mandated under the Clean Air Act. Now if they want us to monitor the area, then we will do it," he said.

Pollution

Garbage, when burned, spit gaseous smoke and soot in the air, causing massive air pollution and respiratory diseases.

Considered as one of the most toxic chemicals, dioxin is produced when organic waste containing chlorine is burned.

This chemical causes skin ruptures, digestive disorders, birth defects and cancer. Methane gas, produced from garbage decomposition, can be hazardous if ignited and contributes to the warming of the earth.

After repeatedly calling for the dump's closure due to its hazardous health effects, residents are afraid of the possible poison in vegetables grown through the use of ash.

Scavengers deliberately burn garbage, filter the ash and sell it to farmers as soil conditioner for vegetable farms. This business started in the late 1970s.

Lt. Colonel, soldiers survive MILF ambush

COTABATO CITY—An Army deputy brigade commander survived an ambush by suspected Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in Pikit, North Cotabato on Thursday morning, the military here said.

Lt. Col. Ferdinand Bacobo, deputy commander of the 302nd Infantry Brigade, and his escorts were on their way to Kidapawan City when armed men fired at their military vehicle.

A 30-minute clash ensued but no one was reported hurt, according to Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division.

The suspects fled when armored vehicles, backed by two helicopter gunships, came to reinforce the soldiers.

Portions of the highway in Barangay Dalingawan were closed for several hours after the firefight.

"This is very sad," Ando said. "While the government is pursuing peace and the MILF leaders (are) declaring (their) desire to resume peace talks, rebels in the field are conducting harassment and ambuscades."

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, could not say if MILF rebels were indeed behind the ambush. But he said the government's all-out war policy still exists.

"With this policy, we cannot avoid confrontations between soldiers and rebels, ambushes included," he said.

Ando said the Army's 6th Infantry Division is no longer in an all-out war mode since the fall of MILF camps.

"We are responding to every MILF atrocities as part of our duty," he said.

"We won't sit down and watch as the guerrillas are pounding on our military positions in our areas of jurisdiction," he said. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Comelec declares Bacolod mayor American, orders him unseated

BY CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—With just three months before the next elections, Mayor Oscar Verdeflor of this city was unseated by the Commission on Elections and ordered the vice mayor, Luz Valdez, to take Verdeflor's place.

The Comelec, in an en banc decision Thursday, ruled that Verdeflor could not hold the post because he is an American citizen.

The Comelec ruling came in the form of a denial of the motion for reconsideration sought by Verdeflor on an earlier decision of the commission's Second Division which declared Verdeflor an American citizen and ineligible to hold any elective office in the Philippines.

The Comelec, however, also ruled against a petition to have defeated mayoral candidate Evelio Leonardia installed as the city mayor.

The Comelec said Valdez, and not Leonardia, is the rightful mayor of the city.

The commission cited a Supreme Court ruling on the Labo vs. Comelec case in which the High Tribunal had declared that "the ineligibility of a candidate receiving majority of votes does not entitle the eligible candidate receiving the next highest number of votes to be declared elected."

"A minority or defeated candidate cannot be deemed elected to the office," the Supreme Court said.

The petition questioning Verdeflor's assumption into office as mayor was filed by city Councilors Juanito Amihan and Lorendo Dilag shortly after Verdeflor was declared winner in the 1998 mayoral race.

They asked that Leonardia, then the incumbent mayor seeking reelection and who got the second highest number of votes, be declared as mayor on the argument that the candidacy of Verdeflor was null and void from the start.

But the commission said the argument was not in accordance with law and existing jurisprudence, citing the High Tribunal's ruling on the Labo case.

Amihan said he and Dilag would appeal the Comelec's ruling before the Supreme Court as they still believed that Leonardia was the rightful mayor of the city.

Verdeflor was also expected to fight for his post and appeal the Comelec ruling before the Supreme Court.

City legal officer Allan Zamora said under the Omnibus Election Code, Verdeflor has 30 days to file a petition for review and appeal for a temporary restraining order.

He said the order could only become executory if Verdeflor would fail to secure a TRO within 30 days from the time the Comelec issued the ruling.

Zamora also expressed doubts Valdez could take over the post since the 30-day period would start on March 2 and by that time Valdez would have already resigned as vice mayor and filed his certificate of candidacy for mayor.

UNDP exec to visit RP

THE REGIONAL bureau director of the United Nations Development Program is visiting the Philippines starting tomorrow to attend the Asian Development Bank's poverty conference that opens on Monday.

Hafiz Ahmed Pasha will deliver a paper during the conference on "Achieving the Millennium Summit Goals: How Do We Get There?"

During his visit to the Philippines Pasha is expected to meet with key government officials to affirm the UNDP's commitment to the fight against poverty in the country.

'Tis the season for turncoats in Visayas

BY JOEY GABIETA
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Political turncoats have started to mushroom in two provinces of Eastern Visayas where political allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada are starting to shift to the new ruling political party.

The Loretos, the dominant political clan in the western part of Leyte, have jumped ship from the erstwhile ruling coalition Lapian ng Masang Pilipino (LAMP) to the Lakas-NUCD.

Leyte Rep. Catalina Loreto-Go has already sent feelers to regional leaders of Lakas-NUCD of the clan's intention to join the party.

Along with Representative Go, her father former Leyte Rep. Eriberto Loreto and uncle Jose have also expressed their desire to join the Lakas-NUCD.

Go is reportedly running for mayor of Baybay, the biggest municipality in the Leyte's fifth district. Her father will take her place as a fifth district representative in Congress.

Jose Go has been reported to be the running mate of former Gov. Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez who is running for governor, a position he once held for 21 years. Romualdez will run under the banner of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL).

In Eastern Samar, Rep. Marcelino Libanan of the province's lone district also dumped the LAMP and was planning to join the Lakas-NUCD.

Libanan explained that he wanted to join Lakas-NUCD because former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado has already left the LAMP.

Mercado had resigned as national chair of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), a party member of LAMP. Libanan was head of the LAMP-PMP wing in Eastern Samar.

The plan of the Loretos and Libanan to join Lakas is still subject to approval by party officials in Eastern Visayas.

Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol, Lakas-NUCD regional chair, earlier said the party would not accept any turncoats.

Meanwhile, Carmen Cari, younger sister of Gov. Remedios "Matin" Petilla, filed her certificate of candidacy for congresswoman in Leyte's fifth district under the Lakas-NUCD.

The certificate was filed before Manny Villegas, Commission on Elections provincial officer.

Cari was the second major candidate to file a certificate of candidacy. On Jan. 4, Carlos "Caloy" Romualdez, son of Kokoy Romualdez, filed his certificate of candidacy for congressman in Leyte's second district under the PMP.

CONGRATULATIONS SA MGA NANALO!

National Capital Region

First Place Winner:

Shaira Mae Joy S. Sugui
Antipolo City, Rizal
Suking Tindahan: Ariel's Store
(Antipolo City, Rizal)

Second Place Winner:

Mina N. Torres
Las Piñas City, Metro Manila
Suking Tindahan: Mercury Drug
(Parañaque City, Metro Manila)

Third Place Winner:

Adelita C. Garcia
Tondo, Manila
Suking Tindahan: Melymar Store
(Tondo, Manila)

Fourth Place Winner:

Evelyn Moral
Commonwealth, Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Johnny's Store
(Payatas, Quezon City)

Consolation Prize Winners:

Veronica C. Abong
Navotas, Metro Manila
Suking Tindahan: Cora Sari-sari Store
(Navotas, Metro Manila)

Enrico V. Aviles
Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Blyn's Store
(Quezon City)

Joanabelle J. Borbon
Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: SM Supermarket
(Quezon City)

Nestor C. Fernandez
Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Mercury Drug Corp.
(Quezon City)

Lucy O. Ferrer
Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Louisly Store
(Quezon City)

Amparo M. Gaerlan
Marikina City
Suking Tindahan: Ampy's Store
(Marikina City)

Myrna M. Garcia
Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Luzong Store
(Quezon City)

Ariel C. Pestilos
Caloocan City
Suking Tindahan: Elma's Store
(Caloocan City)

Emelita Tumbocon
Caloocan City
Suking Tindahan: Joso Minimart
(Caloocan City)

Marivic M. Zafe
Caloocan City
Suking Tindahan: Tropical Hut Foodmart
(Quezon City)

Northern Luzon

First Place Winner:

Alma V. Dela Cruz
Guiguinto, Bulacan
Suking Tindahan: Merring's Store
(Plaridel, Bulacan)

Second Place Winner:

Rosemarie L. Rodriguez
Rosales, Pangasinan
Suking Tindahan: Herminia Manaois
(Rosales, Pangasinan)

Third Place Winner:

Marilou C. Tangiao
San Fernando City, La Union
Suking Tindahan: Dolores Sari-sari Store
(San Fernando City, La Union)

Fourth Place Winner:

Leonita Ganitano
Solsona, Ilocos Norte
Suking Tindahan: Duldulao's Store
(Solsona, Ilocos Norte)

Consolation Prize Winners:

Osman Arcega
Olongapo City, Zambales
Suking Tindahan: Akira's Store
(Olongapo City, Zambales)

Sonita T. Arienzano
Mabalacat, Pampanga
Suking Tindahan: Jenra Supermart
(Mabalacat, Pampanga)

Alejo P. Calub
Bauang, La Union
Suking Tindahan: National Bazaar
(San Fernanado City, La Union)

Joseph Glenn D. Canlas
Porac, Pampanga
Suking Tindahan: Johnny's Supermarket
(Angeles City, Pampanga)

Nur-in Cinco
Olongapo City, Zambales
Suking Tindahan: Salgado Store
(Olongapo City, Zambales)

Joanna B. Elimino
Mabalacat, Pampanga
Suking Tindahan: Jenra Supermart
(Mabalacat, Pampanga)

Maribeth Flores
Olongapo City, Zambales
Suking Tindahan: Tiva's Grocery
(Olongapo City, Zambales)

Eloisa D. Lulu
Tarlac City, Tarlac
Suking Tindahan: Eloisa Store
(Tarlac City, Tarlac)

Nerissa V. Pascual
Castillejos, Zambales
Suking Tindahan: Blossom Bakeshop
(Castillejos, Zambales)

Estrella L. Sigua
Mabalacat, Pampanga
Suking Tindahan: Punzalan Store
(Mabalacat, Pampanga)

Southern Luzon

First Place Winner:

Elisa J. Pablo
Naga City, Camarines Sur
Suking Tindahan: MC Commercial
(Naga City, Camarines Sur)

Second Place Winner:

Librada M. Atienza
Balayan, Batangas
Suking Tindahan: Robert Store
(Balayan, Batangas)

Third Place Winner:

Elizabeth G. Halili
Lucena City, Quezon Province
Suking Tindahan: La Suerte Grocery
(Lucena City, Quezon Province)

Fourth Place Winner:

Girley E. Villanueva
Dasmariñas, Cavite
Suking Tindahan: Four Step Store
(Dasmariñas, Cavite)

Consolation Prize Winners:

Fe C. Asis
Daet, Camarines Norte
Suking Tindahan: Superstore Central Plaza
(Daet, Camarines Norte)

Nurbiya M. Campoto
Dasmariñas, Cavite
Suking Tindahan: Linas Bautista Store
(Dasmariñas, Cavite)

Annie Delos Santos
Bay, Laguna
Suking Tindahan: South Supermarket
(Los Baños, Laguna)

Malta N. Durante
Naga City, Camarines Sur
Suking Tindahan: Robertson Supermart
(Naga City, Camarines Sur)

Leonora U. Gallardo
Mercedez, Camarines Norte
Suking Tindahan: Gemmaglen Supermart
(Daet, Camarines Norte)

Lorena M. Omagap
Balayan, Batangas
Suking Tindahan: Neda's Store
(Balayan, Batangas)

Rosa A. Pajarillo
Daet, Camarines Norte
Suking Tindahan: Sanitary Supermarket and Dept. Store (Daet, Camarines Norte)

Violeta R. Ramos
Bay, Laguna
Suking Tindahan: South Supermarket
(Los Baños, Laguna)

Joan A. Ruiz
Los Baños, Laguna
Suking Tindahan: South Supermarket
(Los Baños, Laguna)

Ma. Jesusa M. Valenzuela
San Pedro, Laguna
Suking Tindahan: Pacita Foodmart
(San Pedro, Laguna)

Visayas

First Place Winner:

Virgilio M. Anino
Loboc, Bohol
Suking Tindahan: Bohol Quality Corp.
(Tagbilaran City, Bohol)

Second Place Winner:

Marianita P. Silido
Calbayog City, Western Samar
Suking Tindahan: Polo Mart
(Calbayog City, Western Samar)

Third Place Winner:

Lolita G. Tondo
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
Suking Tindahan: Enrick Supermarket
(Bacolod City, Negros Occidental)

Fourth Place Winner:

Ruth dela Vina
Maribojoc, Bohol
Suking Tindahan: WL Store
(Maribojoc, Bohol)

Consolation Prize Winners:

Corazon L. Agbay
Mandaue City, Cebu
Suking Tindahan: Super Metro Galsano
(Mandaue City, Cebu)

Alora Grace P. Bartonico
Iloilo City, Iloilo Province
Suking Tindahan: JMNHS Cooperative
(Iloilo City, Iloilo Province)

Marian Cabrillos
Cebu City, Cebu
Suking Tindahan: Robinson's Supermarket
(Cebu City, Cebu)

Maria M. Datuin
Mandaue City, Cebu
Suking Tindahan: Super Metro Mandaue
(Mandaue City, Cebu)

Maricris B. de Leon
Tacloban City, Leyte
Suking Tindahan: Astra Mart Super Store
(Tacloban City, Leyte)

Luis Tiu Docena
Can-Avid, Eastern Samar
Suking Tindahan: Lynlyn Docena Store
(Can-Avid, Eastern Samar)

Juanita Gesta Donasco
Mandaue City, Cebu
Suking Tindahan: Super Metro Mandaue
(Mandaue City, Cebu)

Ruth A. Gasco
Mandaue City, Cebu
Suking Tindahan: Super Metro
(Mandaue City, Cebu)

Marnit Judilla
Mandaue City, Cebu
Suking Tindahan: Super Metro Mandaue
(Mandaue City, Cebu)

Rebecca P. Rodriguez
Kalibo, Aklan
Suking Tindahan: RC Marketing Store
(Kalibo, Aklan)

Mindanao

First Place Winner:

Raquel T. Abella
Davao City, Davao del Sur
Suking Tindahan: Cemaron Supermart
(Davao City, Davao del Sur)

Second Place Winner:

Maritess H. Mulit
New Corella, Davao del Norte
Suking Tindahan: Bebie Sari-sari Store
(New Corella, Davao del Norte)

Third Place Winner:

Evelyn Gargar
Davao City, Davao del Sur
Suking Tindahan: Davao Central Warehouse Club (Davao City, Davao del Sur)

Fourth Place Winner:

Daisy F. Arsolon
Davao City, Davao del Sur
Suking Tindahan: NCCC
(Davao City, Davao del Sur)

Consolation Prize Winners:

Hilda Algodon
Lopon, Davao Oriental
Suking Tindahan: Alvaran Store
(Lopon, Davao Oriental)

Rosemary T. Bilang
Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur
Suking Tindahan: O.K. Dept. Store
(Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur)

Gilbert J. Cosgafa
Davao City, Davao del Sur
Suking Tindahan: Molly's Best Mart
(Davao City, Davao del Sur)

Noel P. Domasig
Barra, Opol Misamis Oriental
Suking Tindahan: La-Victoria Grocery
(Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental)

Ma. Magdalena B. Gapatan
Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur
Suking Tindahan: Shop-O-Rama
(Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur)

Jeannette D. Herrera
Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur
Suking Tindahan: Edessa Joy Store
(Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur)

Jennifer B. Magtira
Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur
Suking Tindahan: Shop-O-Rama
(Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur)

Virginia S. Ponollera
Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur
Suking Tindahan: O.K. Supermarket
(Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur)

Leonarda Suerte
Babak Island, Garden City of Samal
Suking Tindahan: Belderal Store
(Babak Island, Garden City of Samal)

Marivic E. Tongco
Davao City, Davao del Sur
Suking Tindahan: Estillore Store
(Davao City, Davao del Sur)

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Fr. Louie's heart was in his eyes

BY HAZEL VILLA
Iloilo City

THOSE eyes that have laughed and cried a lot and seen much are not forever shut. They are gone, removed from the sockets that held them.

The remains of Fr. Luis "Louie" Hechanova, Redemptorist activist-priest and writer well loved by Ilonggos and Cebuanos, lie in a simple but elegant coffin at the Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, a church named after his mother in his hometown of Barangay Hechanova in Jaro, Iloilo City.

Father Louie's eyes, at his own request years ago, have been surgically removed right after his death in the early morning of Jan. 25, a day after his 61st birthday. He wanted to give them to "poor people who will need my eyes to see."

At the end of his storied life, Father Louie's love for the downtrodden that he had fought for in his lifetime triumphed.

Father Louie's burial this Saturday morning reminds his family and people whose lives he had touched of the activist priest who stood against social injustice and had a deep concern for the poor.

"Father Louie is the X-factor of our family. We look up to him because he is our flag bearer," said Ramon Hechanova, eldest surviving brother of Father Louie, the youngest in the brood of nine kids of the landed Dr. Manuel Hechanova and Montserrat Gamboa.

The 72-year-old Ramon, an engineer, speaks of his brother with much pride, saying that his selfless love for the underprivileged has led him to a life of religion and activism.

FR. LOUIE HECHANOVA. A heart devoted to the poor and eyes that saw what could be done when people were asking what could not be. RUFINO GONZALES II

The awakening

The factor that further strengthened Father Louie's activist crusades near the end of the Marcos years up to the Estrada administration was the abduction of Fr. Rudy Romano on July 11, 1985 in Barangay Tisa, Cebu City.

"Someday, someone burdened with guilt or moved by conscience might still come forward and tell us (about) the exact circumstances of his death," Father Louie was quoted as saying by the Catholic News on July 20 last year.

Father Romano, who was ordained in 1964 and was 44 when he disappeared, was active with the Visayas Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace. He was a close friend of Father Louie. The Redemptorists, said Catholic News, withdrew their lawyers from court hearings on Father Romano's case in 1986 after a witness, a taxi driver, died mysteriously.

Father Louie then learned to take his cause to the streets and began publishing a newsletter that exposed the excesses of the Marcos regime.

At the time of his death from a massive heart attack, the jolly Father Louie was the Redemptorist provincial superior for Visayas and Mindanao.

Ramon narrates that his brother was supposed to meet Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the day he died to represent the Association of Religious Superiors.

Father Louie's closeness to President Macapagal-Arroyo goes a long way back as his elder brother Rufino Hechanova was the "Whiz Kid" of former President Diosdado Macapagal. Rufino served as the elder Macapagal's executive secretary in 1962 and held four other Cabinet positions under his term.

In his pursuit of higher theological learning, Father Louie studied in Bangalore, India; Dublin, Ireland and in Rome.

While studying in these places, he immersed himself in the local culture and always reached out to Filipinos in those places. While in Rome in the early 1980s, he set up a system by which Filipinos working there could send remittances faster to their families in the Philippines.

His only sister Carmen Hechanova-Soriano said her brother even institutionalized the "Day of OFWs." This was every Thursday where Filipinos met in a place near the Vatican that Father Louie himself put up.

"He does not know how to say no. His only fault is that he does not know when to pause from his activities. He seems to need more than 24 hours a day," said Carmen.

Super priest

Though his brothers and sister describe him as a "regular happy kid who loves to dance the *chachu*," Father Louie followed an educational path different from them.

While his siblings studied at the Ateneo de Manila in elementary and the University of Sto. Tomas for higher learning, Father Louie opted to study in Iloilo City and be near his parents.

He studied in St. Clements and graduated valedictorian in high school. From then on, he continued with his priestly studies in Bangalore, India. Father Louie was ordained on Dec. 16, 1962 in Cebu City. He then proceeded to Rome where he took his Masters in Theology from 1963-65.

Back in the Philippines in 1967, Father Louie busied himself with social work. During Martial Law, he was the provincial superior of the Redemptorist Fathers in Cebu.

Father Louie's greatest achievement in the Catholic Church was in 1985 when he was elected one of the seven priests to sit in the powerful Redemptorist Council in Rome. He was given the task of overseeing church activities in Asia and Western Pacific. He was reelected for another term that ended in 1998.

When he came back to the Philippines in 1998, he asked for a sabbatical leave because he wanted to teach theology at the Claretian Institute in Manila.

The Redemptorists in Cebu called for him in 1999 where he was elected provincial superior for Visayas and Mindanao.

"He's a very anti-Erap priest, but so full of life," said Grace Hechanova-Locsin, Father Louie's niece from his late eldest brother Jose Mari.

Grace, 30, is the priest's favorite godchild whom he sent to high school and college while he was in Rome. Her wedding to Manuel Locsin on Jan. 8 this year was the last wedding rite he officiated.

Unifying force

Ramon, Carmen and Grace nod in unison that Father Louie's greatest role in the life of the Gamboas and Hechanovas was as a "unifying force."

"It seems that his main goal . . . is to make all family members close to each other. He always takes time out to be with us like what happened during his 60th and 61st birthday," said Grace.

"He was someone to talk to when you're feeling down," said Manuel, Grace's husband.

It turned out that every time Father Louie came home to the Philippines, the Hechanovas would have an impromptu reunion to accommodate his wish of seeing all his brothers, sister, nephews and nieces.

At the reception of Grace and Manuel's wedding at the Hotel del Rio in Iloilo City, Father Louie refused to dance with the elder members of the family but promptly went to the dance floor when his little nieces asked him to be their partner.

Ramon narrated that on Nov. 1 last year, while making the rounds of cemeteries in Iloilo, Father Louie asked to be accompanied to the Guardian of the Apostles at the Iloilo Memorial Park where the Redemptorists had eight plots for their members.

"He just wanted to see where he would be resting," said Ramon, former chair of the Western Visayas Regional Development Council.

Though he was in Manila while Father Louie was a youngster and did not become close to him, Ramon became his brother's constant companion in their later years every time the priest came to Iloilo.

Wishes granted

All of Father Louie's wishes today will be granted by his family—that his eyes be donated to the poor who needed them and that he be buried simply at the Guardian of the Apostles.

So, where are the eyes of Father Louie, the priest with the admirable heart?

Family members don't know exactly who has Fr. Louie's eyes now except that they got word from the Eye Bank in Manila that following the wishes of their brother, the eyes now belong to two indigent women, who may never know that they have the eyes of Father Louie.

'Weather-weather'

BREAKAWAY

Ivan P. Suansing

LITO Osmeña is all over town these days, grinning from ear to ear like a shark that has just swallowed its lunch and is looking for more.

His Promdi, now an organization of provincial tradpols, has grown tremendously in recent days—bloated, though not necessarily strengthened, by the defection of turncoats who less than a month ago pledged their undying loyalty to former President Estrada.

Not only has Lito stuffed the Arroyo government with his disciples, edging out his estranged brother Sonny's men, he's also seeking to grab a Senate seat to upstage Sonny himself. As if there aren't enough sideshows in the Senate.

"Weather-weather" politics is the only kind of politics Lito and Sonny preach and practice. Both have shown they know how to make hay, and other things, while the sun is shining. With President Arroyo at the helm, it's Lito and Promdi's chance to shine and Sonny's turn to lick his wounds.

Is this what the Cebuanos' want?

After People Power 2, another bloodless revolution, many people expected a different brand of politics, even radical changes, from President Arroyo.

But the President quickly proved to be a disappointment, first with her choice of recycled and tarnished Cabinet officials, and second with her "concessions" to allied political parties like Promdi to which she thinks she's indebted.

On the strength of Promdi's endorsement, Winston Garcia has been appointed GSIS manager and Paul Dominguez presidential adviser on regional development. Lito is poised to put his own men in vital Visayas offices, including the Cebu Ports Authority (CPA) and the Cebu Mactan International Airport Authority (MCIAA).

Certainly this wasn't what the multitude on Edsa or Barug Sugbo, the umbrella organization of anti-Estrada groups in Cebu, fought hard for.

These people didn't take to the streets to ensure Gloria Arroyo's coronation; they marched against a corrupt president and bad government. They didn't loudly protest so that Lito and his lackeys could replace Sonny and his lackeys, a difference that hardly exists. They protested to restore decency and honesty in public service.

But President Arroyo has given them more of the same. The faces have changed, but only that.

* * *

OVERDOSE. If Lito runs for the Senate, there will be a total of six Osmeñas seeking public office in May.

Senator Serge, Lito's cousin, will be running for reelection. Serge's brother, former Cebu City mayor Tomas, is in the thick of his comeback drive.

Their cousins, brothers Cebu City Vice Mayor Renato and Councilor Rogelio are likewise running. Also in the hunt is Board Member John-John, Senator Sonny's son, who wants to be Cebu vice governor.

Senator John "Sonny" Osmeña, says he's "depressed" to see so many of his relatives join the May 14 derby. He suggests that a "backlash" is possible with voters choosing to reject them all.

That sounds more of a wish. As everyone knows, Sonny hates his brother Lito so much he probably can't stand being in the same building with him almost daily for the next three years.

Voters, however, are wise enough not to generalize. There are also good Osmeñas, stresses Senator Serge, whose reelection bid will be hurt by Lito's decision to join the fray.

Serge was one of the senators whose consistent stand at President Estrada's impeachment trial earned him the admiration of many Filipinos. His incisive and strikingly clear comments helped galvanize public opinion against the insidious attempt to prevent the opening of the second Jose Velarde envelope.

* * *

ENRILE'S TAUNT. Aside from the envelope controversy, two other factors precipitated Estrada's downfall.

One was Tessie Oreta's obscene dance number. The other was Juan

WEATHER/p.A15

St. Elmo's Fire at the Dinagyang Festival

BY HAZEL VILLA
Iloilo City

THE 32nd celebration of the Dinagyang Festival in Iloilo City on Jan. 27-28 was a display of what could be the peak of performance of the famous Ati-atihan tribes that had Dinagyang-immune Ilonggos enthralled and visitors fascinated.

The Ati-atihan contest had 17 tribes competing in three categories for the honor of being the best, never mind if the cash prize could not possibly compensate the stomping, dancing and gyrating to loud drums under the searing heat of the sun and months of practice.

The root word of Dinagyang is "dagyang" or "to make merry." Coined by Ilonggo writer and broadcaster Pacifico Sudario, it started in 1968 when a replica of the image of the Senor Sto. Niño was brought from Cebu City to the San Jose Parish Church of Iloilo City by Rev. Sulpicio Ebderes and a delegation of the Cofradia del Sto. Niño from Cebu.

The Dinagyang festival was institutionalized in 1969 when the Iloilo City government combined religious celebration with a cultural one that highlighted the barter of Panay with the Atis (natives).

For the sixth consecutive year, defending champion Tribu Bola-Bola of the Iloilo National High School won in the Open Category of the hotly contested Ati-Atihan competition.

Great ball of fire

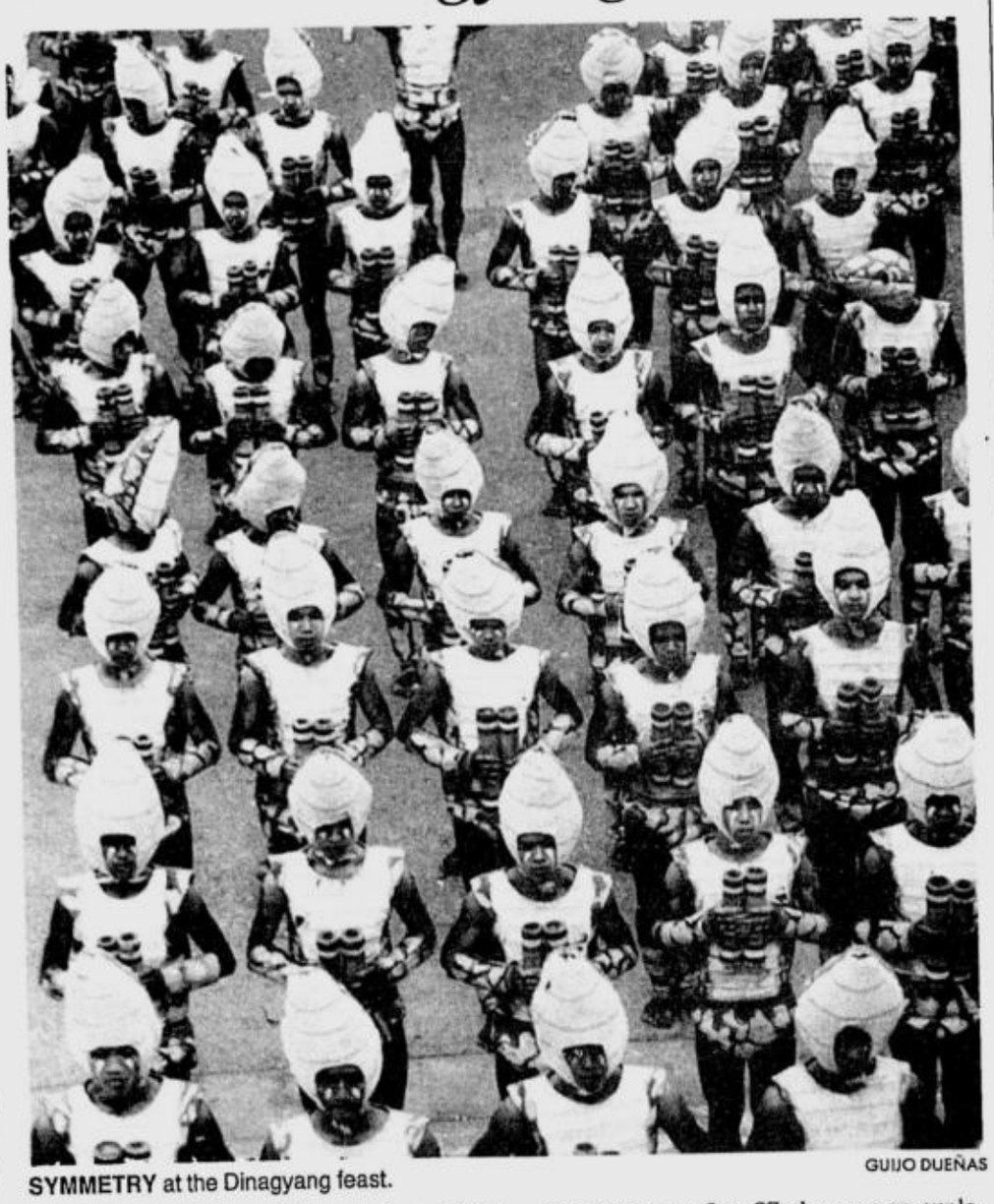
Tribu Bola-Bola departed from the usual performance of tribal dances of adoration of the Sto. Niño and lent a new "magical realist" twist to the cultural significance of the Dinagyang. They presented "Santermo" or "Ball of Fire."

The story line of the colorful and tightly synchronized Bola-Bola performance had an Ati (negrito native of Panay Island) getting killed by a warrior of one of the 10 *datus* who landed on Panay Island.

The Ati's blood dropped in a cauldron held by the *datus*' men and from this cauldron came out the 65 dark warriors who were men of the 10 *datus* fleeing from the Bornean dictator Makatunao. They represented the Santermo with their blood "sympathizing" with that of the dead Ati.

The warriors—wanting to prove their sincerity for a peace pact with the angry Atis—smeared themselves in black soot, engaged the Negritos in a dance and introduced to them the Sto. Niño. The Negritos then embraced Roman Catholicism.

"The crowd was enthralled but not as enthusiastic that there would be a new winner. Bola-Bola was just so good they were expected to win," said Rex Maestrecampo, associate editor of Panay News and consistent Dinagyang watcher.



SYMMETRY at the Dinagyang feast. GUIJO DUEÑAS

"Since we are competing with ourselves as champions, it follows that we should overshadow our previous performances with the Santermo this year. (Keeping) the championship with so many other fantastic tribes is very difficult," said Dr. Riza Amaguin, principal of the Iloilo National High School.

Amaguin added that Bola-Bola did not want to join the Ati-atihan contest this year out of *delicadeza* but the Iloilo Dinagyang Foundation insisted that that they should "since we are often called to perform in national and international events."

Tribu Bola-Bola received a trophy and a cash prize of P50,000. They also received an additional P25,000 for getting five special awards—best in discipline, music, choreography, costume and performance.

Explosion of colors

The Kasadyahan (merry-making) or mardi gras contest on Jan. 27 also saw an explosion of colors and cultural contests from different schools in Iloilo City and province. Most depicted the cultural significance of the Philippines and Panay's history from different eras.

The champion of the Kasadyahan was Tribu Paghidaet of the Lapaz National High School that highlighted the participation in the Philippine revolution of Gabriela Silang, the Filipino Joan of Arc. The tribe received a trophy and P30,000.

Miss Dinagyang was Elizabeth Hardy, a half-British, half-Filipino 23-year-old graduate of Mass Communications and Miss West Visayas State University in 1998. She will also be Iloilo City's ambassador of goodwill until next year when the new Miss Dinagyang is crowned.

This year's Dinagyang was relatively peaceful, except for the usual drunks and minor troublemakers whom police immedi-

ST. ELMO'S/p.A15

St. Elmo's . . .

(From page A14)

ately led into temporary cells called "hog vans" until they became sober.

With the start of the election season, several politicians were seen hamming it up with the crowd in the five judging stations. Among them were Sen. Franklin Drilon, Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto, former Speaker Manuel Villar, Guimaras Rep. Emily Lopez and most of Iloilo City's local politicians who are running for election in the city council.

The five hog vans set up in major streets of downtown Iloilo during the two-day festivities were soon filled with 95 troublemakers, as reported by the Iloilo City Police Office under its director, Supt. Rolando Rabarra.

Some 6,000 ROTC cadets helped hundreds of Iloilo City's policemen control the crowd that spilled out into the streets to watch the Ati-Atihan.

The only fly in the Dinagyang ointment may be the crass commercialism that has invaded this religious and cultural affair. The city's main thoroughfares were festooned with banners of major beer and fastfood companies.

These overshadowed Dinagyang's own banners.

"It is basically more of the same but better and more peaceful," said Maestrecampo.

Weather

(From page A14)

Ponce Enrile's taunt on national TV a day after the 11-10 decision: "*Magrebolusyon kayo kung kaya ninyo*!"

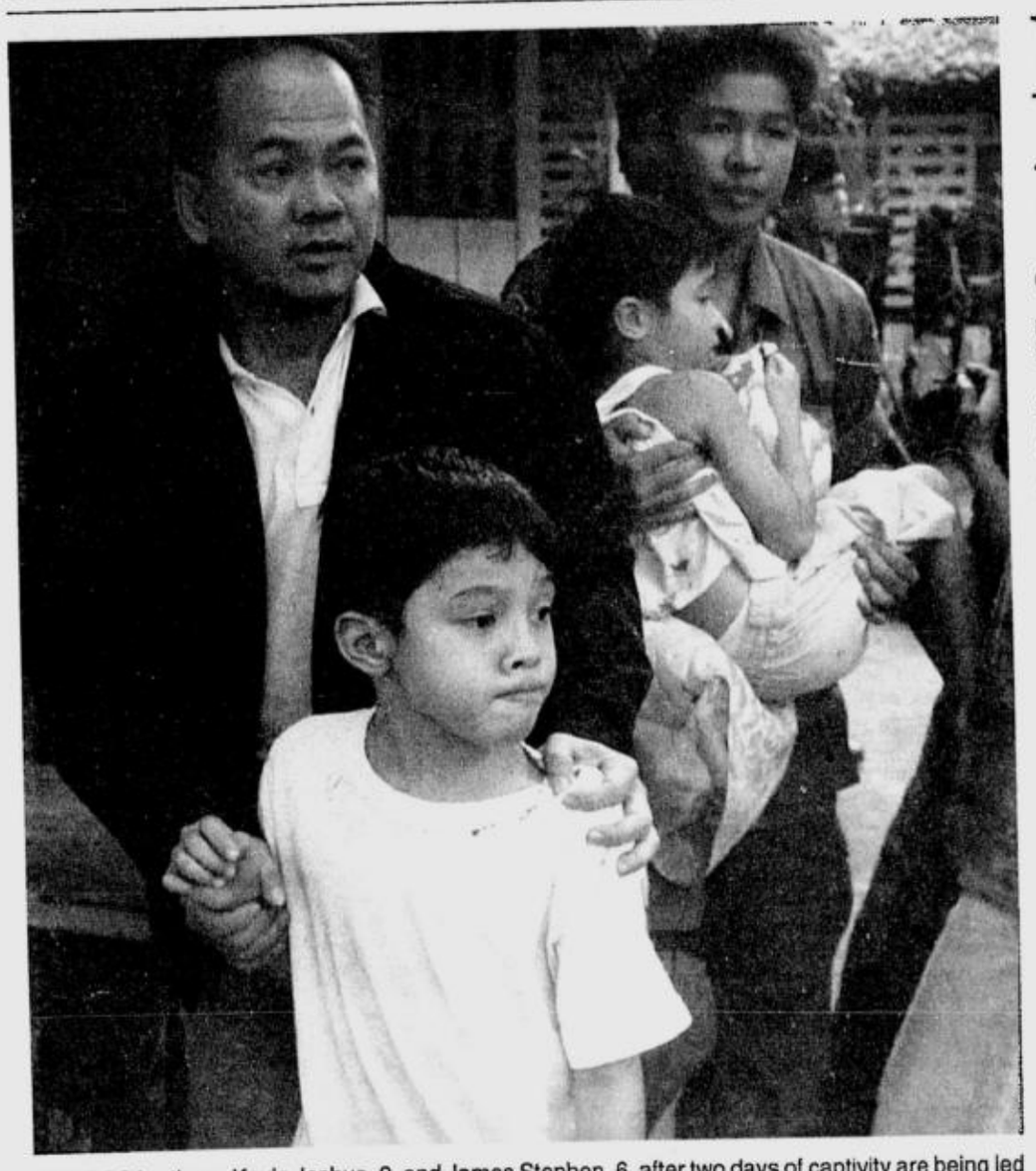
* * *

CRYING GOV. According to reporters' accounts, Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor was broadly smiling and crying at the same time he announced before a crowd of Ilonggo protesters the defection of his cousin Air Force chief Benjamin Defensor Jr.

The governor must have been overwhelmed with joy and relief to see Lt. General Defensor on TV switch to the right side, after the unpopular stand taken by the governor's younger sister, Senator Miriam.

After People Power 2, the acclaimed Ilonggo "heroes" are Sen. Frank Drilon and Rep. Raul Gonzalez, who are now elbowing each other for the right to be king maker.

Kitchenware



BURGOS brothers, Kevin Joshua, 9, and James Stephen, 6, after two days of captivity are being led home by agents from the PNP Special Action Forces and the PAOCTF. EDWIN BACASMAS

Davide rates higher than Gloria in survey

(From page A1)

briefing at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

In contrast, Estrada, who enjoyed a consistently higher trust rating than Macapagal before his ouster, suffered the worst trust rating in his political career.

His net trust rating plunged to negative 20 percent on Jan. 26 from negative 16 percent on Jan. 20.

Won't last

Although Ms Macapagal's net trust rating has improved, a significant number of Metro Manila residents think that she won't be able to keep the presidency.

Forty-four percent believe that Ms Macapagal will not remain in office until 2004.

This is very close to the 51 percent who believe that she can finish the remaining term of Estrada.

"The (Macapagal) administration should make sure that it informs the people that it is doing something. While saying that change does not happen overnight, it (must show that it) is trying to get things done," Miranda said.

He said this was important in gaining more support for the Macapagal administration and in averting efforts at destabilization.

While 55 percent of the respondents believe that she has the public's support, 45 percent expressed skepticism that she enjoys public support.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also enjoys a high net trust rating. He obtained a rating of 38 percent.

He voted for the opening of the second sealed envelope submitted by the Equitable PCI Bank and announced his resignation as Senate president on Jan. 16 in protest over the Senate vote against opening the envelope.

Clarissa Ocampo, Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president, got a net trust rating of 11 percent.

Ocampo testified at the impeachment trial that Estrada owned the Jose Velarde account with Equitable PCI Bank.

House prosecutors claim that the Velarde account had total deposits of P3.2 billion.

Gloria names FVR nephew DAR chief

(From page A1)

Asked about the new appointee's qualifications for the post apart from his being a member of the so-called "Spice Boys" in the House, Corona said Braganza, a nephew of former President Fidel Ramos, had extensive experience in agrarian reform matters.

"He has been an active member of the agrarian reform committee. There have been many bills (filed) and public hearings conducted by him," Corona said.

"He is okay with peasant groups because he has had consultations with them relative to agrarian reform bills. They are known to be progressive, and the fact that they okayed his appointment will augur well for him."

Corona said the Macapagal administration had only three to four Cabinet posts left to fill.

He said the following were on the short list of possible appointees: current Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban, former Health Undersecretary Jaime Galvez Tan and former Environment Secretary Victor Ramos for agriculture, health and environment respectively.

The post of Vice President and concurrent foreign secretary is still up in the air.

But Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople said Ms Macapagal should name a full-time foreign secretary, "especially since she seems to be running into certain dilemmas in picking her nominee."

Ople, who chairs the Senate foreign relations committee, said it was in the national interest if a professional diplomat or outstanding citizen with impeccable foreign policy credentials were in charge of the foreign office.

He said the new US administration, the unrest between China and Taiwan and between North and South Korea, and developments in the Middle East meant that the Philippines needed a "watchful and alert foreign service."

Morning, not midnight

The President promised the Makati Business Club (MBC) a Cabinet different from her disgraced predecessor's infamous "Midnight Cabinet."

"I am committed to restoring the Cabinet as an institution of executive policy-making and coordination—this Cabinet that meets in the morning and not at midnight," she said at the MBC's annual convention at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City.

Ms Macapagal also reiterated her defense of her appointees, whom the MBC criticized recently.

She said her "recycled" Cabinet officials had been selected on the basis of their competence, good orientation and performance.

"What is terribly wrong in recycling good people?" she said, citing Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

Both De Villa and Boncodin served in Ramos' Cabinet. Roxas was the trade secretary of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Ms Macapagal described her finance secretary, Alberto Romulo, as "one of the honest politicians," and Dante Canlas, her choice to head the National Economic and Development Authority, as a career economist.

She said her appointment of Eduardo Ermita as presidential adviser on the peace process was grounded on his knowledge of "the whole history of the peace process."

She again defended her appointment of Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong and Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez—who are both from Mindanao—saying they were expected to "increase the stakes, trust and support of the people in Mindanao."

'Congratulations'

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., a leading contender for Vice President, has discovered that Ms Macapagal was not above pulling a prank.

"Congratulations," she whispered to him in Camp Crame yesterday morning, adding: ". . .on the 10th anniversary of the PNP (Philippine National Police)."

Pimentel chuckled as he related the incident to reporters, who had again asked him if he would be the next VP.

It was the second time Ms Macapagal invited Pimentel to join her in a public engagement. She took him with her last weekend to Manaoag, Pangasinan, during her first out-of-town trip as President.

Pimentel opposed the proposal earlier aired by Sen. Gregorio Honasan that the Vice President be elected during the May 14 elections for senators and local officials.

"That is unconstitutional," Pimentel said. "The Constitution clearly states that the President has the power to select the Vice President subject to concurrence by both houses of Congress."

Pimentel had earlier acknowledged that Senate Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr., president of Ms Macapagal's party Lakas, had an edge over him in the VP race.

Ms Macapagal met with Guingona and the other Lakas senators in Malacañang last Tuesday.

The meeting spawned speculations that she would announce her VP in her nationwide broadcast that evening, but she did not.

Sen. Franklin Drilon is seen as the dark horse in the race because of the alleged strong endorsement of former President Corazon Aquino. *With a report from Amy Bainbridge*

Mark Jimenez confesses sins to Sin

(From page A1)

was on the wrong side."

"I allied myself with them without knowing what was happening to the country. Perhaps, it was also because of my own stupidity," he told reporters after his meeting with the archbishop.

Jimenez denied that he was cooperating with the Department of Justice so that he could evade extradition to the United States where he is facing charges of illegal campaign contribution to the Democratic Party, tax evasion and mail fraud.

He said he did not ask anything from the Macapagal administration in exchange for his testimony.

Unlike Singson, Jimenez said he did not show the archbishop pieces of evidence against the former President. He said it was not the proper venue to present such things.

Jimenez is expected to reveal Estrada's ownership of BW Resources Corp., which figured in the country's worst stock trading scandal, and the former president's alleged kickbacks from major corporate deals.

It was Jimenez who brokered the P30-billion takeover of PLDT by First Pacific and the P32-billion merger of Equitable Bank and PCI Bank.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday refused to divulge the contents of Jimenez's affidavit but he hinted that it would be about Estrada's alleged illegal business transactions when he was still President.

Perez said Jimenez "is a witness in all the cases" which the DOJ would file with the Ombudsman next week.

Asked if Jimenez was a direct participant or a primary participant in shady deals, Perez said: "Not even a participant. But in other cases, he is a participant. We do need him to be able to present evidence."

Perez also defended his decision to admit Jimenez into the government's witness protection program, saying the latter has explosive testimony against Estrada.

Perez said the DOJ would soon ask the US State Department to allow Jimenez "to stay longer here to be able to testify."

US Embassy

But the United States is pressing the DOJ to extradite Jimenez to the United States "as soon as possible."

Chargé d'affaires Michael Malinowski yesterday said the US Embassy in Manila remained in "close dialogue" with the DOJ to stress Washington's interest in having Jimenez extradited.

"We would like to have him extradited as soon as possible (although) how soon possible is the question," Malinowski said in a chance interview at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"One of the things in the Mark Jimenez case is that it's part of our extradition treaty, and that's what we want to see work. It should be working for both countries and that is the issue beyond the particular case of Mark Jimenez, although the case has its own seriousness as well," he said.

Perez earlier said that he preferred to defer Jimenez's extradition until he finishes his court testimony, which, judging from the duration of criminal trials in the country, could take several years.

Serapio rejected

As for the personal lawyer of Estrada, Perez disclosed that he had rejected the offer of Edward Serapio to testify against the former President.

"I have turned him down. He might face disbarment," Perez said of Serapio, a former student of his at the Ateneo law school.

Perez said it was Serapio's lawyer-friend who contacted him regarding Serapio's willingness to testify against Estrada.

"But he is Estrada's lawyer. He could not testify against his client. But there are those who claimed that there is an exception (to the lawyer's oath). If they are co-conspirators he can testify against his client," the justice secretary said.

In the Senate, Lakas Sen. Renato Cayetano has filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into DOJ's decision to accept former cronies of Estrada as witnesses.

No to Erap cronies

Cayetano said it was "in the interest of justice that all these individuals who are associates/cronies of former President Estrada be likewise prosecuted, either as co-principals, accomplices or accessories for the crimes and offenses committed by (the fallen leader)."

But Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. seemed open to the admission of Jimenez as state witness because of what he knows about Estrada's financial dealings.

"Mr. Jimenez knows a lot of things and therefore he can be a very damaging witness. My recollection is that one of the names contained in envelope No. 2 was the name of Mr. Jimenez," Pimentel told reporters.

Pimentel was referring to the second Equitable PCI Bank envelope, which contained alleged evidence on Estrada's P3.2-billion account.

Eleven senators voted not to open the envelope, triggering the collapse of the trial on Jan. 16 and Estrada's eventual ouster on Jan. 20.

In the House of Representatives, Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera said getting former cronies of Estrada as witnesses might not be necessary.

"If prosecutors have enough evidence to convict Estrada based on existing documents and prior testimony presented at the impeachment trial, it is probably unnecessary to put all these Estrada friends on the witness stand," Herrera said in a news conference.

"While it is good that many witnesses are now coming out against Estrada, let us be wary because these friends could spell trouble for the government. For all you know, they are planted witnesses," he warned. *With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and Cathy Yamsuan*

7 Edsa blocs lobby for Senate slots

(From page A1)

next week whether to follow the NPC's decision to sever ties with Estrada's LAMP coalition and throw its support behind President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"You know, the political reality here is that nobody wants to be identified with the loser," said presidential spokesperson Renato Corona.

"If you are no longer in power, it is really hard," he said, adding that he was speaking from experience as the former legal counsel of former President Fidel Ramos.

But NPC leader Ernesto Maceda said late Thursday that it was the administration coalition that was having problems, citing the jockeying for the limited senatorial slots.

At the same time, Maceda, the former ambassador to Washington and Estrada's impeachment spokesperson, implied that the NPC was not better off and was hoping it could pick up "sympathy votes" from the rural areas.

Brave face

Ronaldo Zamora, Estrada's former executive secretary and secretary general of the PMP, nevertheless put on a brave face, saying that his party and its allies "intend to contest every single electoral post at stake."

Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera, however, pointed out that the PMP has only one member in the House.

"So what can you expect in the coming elections? They have difficulty in getting candidates. They mentioned several names but these people are saying that they are not candidates," he said.

And Rep. Sergio Apostol dismissed the opposition as well, predicting: "No matter who they put up, it will be 12-0 in favor of (Macapagal) in the Senate."

At stake in the nationwide elections are more than 17,000 posts, including half of the 24-seat Senate and all 250 seats in the House of Representatives.

'Stronger'

A confident Corona said that "judging from the support that (President Macapagal) has been getting from all over, I think she is stronger now."

He also raised doubts on the claims by supporters of Estrada that he continues to enjoy solid support in the provinces.

In an interview with Palace reporters, Corona said the election is crucial for the Macapagal administration as "a political test of the popularity" of the new President.

In another interview, Herrera assessed the chances of Estrada's party a day after the NPC withdrew from LAMP or the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino, the ruling coalition when Estrada was in power.

Estrada "is isolated. There is no way for Estrada to make a comeback . . . for the next months and years, he will be preoccupied with so many charges against him," relating to alleged plunder and unexplained wealth, Herrera said.

NPC resolution

The NPC announced Thursday night that it would back the Macapagal administration, although party leaders said they would "chart an independent course" and field at least 70 congressional bets for the May 14 polls.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the NPC defection was a "bad sign" of shifting party loyalties.

"If this is becoming a regular phenomenon of political life in this country, it does not augur well for the future of politics and of the nation because shifting political alliances are only of temporary benefit to whoever is in power as Erap, Marcos, even Cory (Aquino) and Ramos experienced under their presidencies," Pimentel said.

In a resolution, the NPC said that the party "shall support and actively collaborate with all branches of government in the attainment of goals," such as national unity, and economically sustainable development policies.

Party leaders, in separate interviews, also said the NPC would "adopt" senatorial bets.

Among those spotted at the NPC caucus were senatorial aspirants Ricardo "Dong" Puno, Estrada's former press secretary, and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Sen. Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng was also there but she was introduced as a congressional bet for Quezon City's third district.

The NPC has two members in the Senate—Coseteng and John Osmeña, both of whom voted against admitting key evidence in Estrada's impeachment trial.

Coseteng and other NPC leaders like Maceda said that they would soon inform the Commission on Elections of the party's withdrawal from the LAMP coalition.

Passionate debate

Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople said some members of LDP, led by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, are asking for "critical collaboration" with the Macapagal administration.

But Ople said he sees no likelihood "at present" that the LDP, led by Estrada's former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, would cut its ties with Estrada's party.

He added, however, that "I expect a rather passionate debate on the issue." He said the LDP was scheduled to meet on Feb. 7.

Angara, in a meeting with pro-Estrada senators last week, positioned the LDP and NPC as the opposition to Macapagal's administration.

Biazon and Sen. Franklin Drilon bolted the LAMP coalition at the height of the "Juetengate" scandal. They remain with the LDP as part of a 23-member "conscience bloc."

Danding's reasons

Ople said he suspects that the decision of the NPC, led by Estrada's friend Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., had to do with the government's plan to reclaim his San Miguel Corp. shares.

"I don't want to go that far but if you are a big businessman and you head a giant corporation like San Miguel Corp. and you are subjected to pressure by the government, you need strong knees so that you will not fall," Ople said. "Maybe, the pressure was too heavy for Danding."

Herrera also said Cojuangco was probably motivated by business and patriotic reasons, adding that he had been told that Cojuangco had tried to talk Estrada into stepping down as early as Nov. 4 "for the good of the country."

"Unfortunately, there were some hardliners who were able to convince Erap to stay put . . . I understand that one of them was Ernesto Maceda, then later, (former Executive Secretary) Edgardo Angara," Herrera said.

Pimentel said he was not surprised by the NPC's move.

"Political parties that do not have any foundation, principle will always find it convenient to support whoever is in power," Pimentel said.

Strategy

Herrera yesterday described the NPC plan to field only congressional bets as a good strategy that would conserve their resources, build up a national machinery and political clout in preparation for a national campaign in the 2004 elections.

The party that controls the House of Representatives, analysts have pointed out, will be a more powerful force with the knowledge that it can impeach a President.

Herrera also downplayed reports that the administration coalition would lose at the polls because of infighting, even as he conceded that various parties were fielding candidates left, right and center.

"That's not true. The only problem is the allocation (of senatorial slots). For example, you have Lito O. (Osmeña, a former senator) saying earlier that he was nominating (Sen.) Ralph Recto. Now he's saying that he's also a candidate but they are only entitled to one slot," Herrera said.

He added that Reporma at the start did not want to have a senatorial slot but now has nominated broadcaster Noli de Castro, who was previously a sure bet for the Estrada coalition.

The problem, Herrera said, was being tackled in meetings and an announcement is expected on Feb. 7.

Slate

Herrera said that among those included in the Edsa coalition would be incumbent Senators Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavier and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

The Bohol congressman said that he had been included in the slate with Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez, former Speaker Manuel Villar, Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, former Bulacan Rep. Roberto Pagdanganan, and Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada.

At least four other slots, he said, remain open as they would need a 13th candidate if either Drilon or Guingona is named vice president.

But younger Lakas men are grumbling and said that "trapos" are trying to elbow their way to the senatorial slots despite their lack of popularity.

They noted the cases of Alvarez, Sergio Apostol and Pagdanganan as examples.

The three have consistently ranked at the bottom of popularity polls and the younger Lakas men are saying that the new coalition will have a hard time pushing for the candidacies of the three.

Launch

Yet another party, Aksyon Demokratiko, yesterday launched the senatorial candidacies of Arroyo and economist Solita "Mareng Winnie" Monsod.

Monsod and Arroyo, a House prosecutor in Estrada's impeachment trial, officially took their oaths as member of Sen. Raul Roco's Aksyon.

Roco administered the oaths during a large gathering at the Aksyon's headquarters in the Ortigas Center.

Quezon City Rep. Michael Defensor said that the Liberal Party (LP) would adopt Arroyo as a senatorial bet. Defensor also noted that Arroyo has "strong support" from members of the LDP "conscience bloc" and from Lakas partymen.

Arroyo took the opportunity to praise Aksyon as part of the "People Power Coalition"—another name for the Edsa Forces.

But militant groups yesterday chided the group's use of the name "Edsa Forces," saying it was the hundreds of thousands of ordinary Filipinos who deserved the title.

Wilson Fortaleza, president of Sanlakas, said the administration lineup should instead be called the "Trapo Team." "Trapo" is street language for traditional politicians.

Very nervous

Monsod said that the possibility of becoming a "trapo" made her very nervous.

"I do not hesitate to tell you that I am nervous because this is my first exposure to what is really partisan politics," said the former head of the National Economic Development Authority and fast-talking co-host of the TV talkshow "Debate." *With reports from Gerald Lacuarta; AFP*

Magic 12: Who's in in Metro

(From page A1)

Aside from De Castro and Pangilinan, two other personalities from television station ABS-CBN 2 made it to the Magic 12.

Ricardo "Dong" Puno, former ABS-CBN vice president and press secretary of Estrada, was No. 9 with 33.7 percent. Broadcaster Korina Sanchez was No. 8 with 34.6 percent.

Others who made it to the Magic 12 were Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto (40.3 percent), former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado (37 percent), former Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara (32.1 percent), former House Speaker Manuel "Manny" Villar (29.6 percent) and former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson (29.2 percent).

Results of the survey showed that senatorial aspirants who supported Edsa II have an edge over those identified with the Estrada administration.

But three personalities who stayed in the Estrada Cabinet until the last hours, made it to the Magic 12. They are Puno, Mercado and Lacson.

With a margin of error of plus or minus five percentage points, others are still in a striking distance of the Magic 12.

They surprisingly include Estrada's son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada and three reelectionist senators who are perceived to be allies of Estrada—Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and Juan Ponce Enrile.

At best, Mayor Estrada could place 10th. At worst, he could be No. 33.

Among the pro-Estrada reelectionist senators, Santiago has the best chance of making it. She would be 7th place at best or 28th at worst; Honasan would be between No. 11 and No. 33 and Enrile between No. 12 and No. 33.

Two other reelectionist senators, Sergio Osmeña III, who is between No. 7 and No. 25 and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., between No.7 and No. 26, could also make it.

The two, as senator-judges, voted for the opening of the sealed envelope containing evidence on the P3.2-billion account of Estrada with Equitable PCI Bank during the impeachment trial of Estrada.

Others who may also make it are Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. (7th–28th), Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. (7th–28th), Oscar Orbos (9th-31st), Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto (10th–33rd), Interior Secretary Joey Lina (10th–33rd), Solita "Winnie" Monsod (10th-33rd) and Roberto Pagdanganan (11th-33rd).

"Those placing between 1 and 5 will more likely be safe. Like in the case of Noli de Castro. At his best, he could be No. 1 but given the margin of plus or minus 5, he could also be at No. 6," Pulse Asia president Felipe "Pepe" Miranda said.

No influence

The survey showed that endorsements by known personalities, including former President Corazon Aquino and President Macapagal-Arroyo, could barely influence the electorate in casting their votes.

Sixty-four (64) percent of the respondents said they would vote for their chosen candidates rather than those endorsed by personalities.

About 22 percent said they would vote for candidates supported by the Macapagal administration while 14 percent said they would vote for those in the opposition.

Surprisingly, a big majority of those who said they would vote for their chosen candidates came from Class E or the poorest of the poor.

Asked whose support would help boost a candidate's chances in the May elections, 28 percent mentioned former President Aquino; 25 percent, President Macapagal, 23 percent, El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and 19 percent, former President Fidel Ramos.

Other influential figures who could sway voters are Estrada (15 percent) and Iglesia ni Cristo executive minister Eraño Manalo (12 percent).

Results of the survey conducted by Data Advisors Inc. on Jan. 18-25 are as follows:

1. Flavier (73 percent), 2. Drilon (71 percent), 3. Arroyo (70 percent), 4. Magsaysay Jr. (63 percent), 5. Pangilinan (61 percent), 6. Rep. Sergio Apostol (55 percent), 7. Osmeña III (54 percent), 8. Renato de Villa (50 percent), 9. De Castro and Rep. Ralph Recto (48 percent each), 10. Perfecto Yasay (47 percent), 11. Jose de Venecia (43 percent) and 12. former House Speaker Manuel Villar (42 percent).

The survey covered 2,000 respondents.

Squash referees clinic today

THE SQUASH Rackets Association of the Philippines will conduct a referees' clinic from 1 to 6 p.m. today at the Makati Sports Club. The public is invited. Munir Shah, director for referees of the Asian Squash Federation, will be the resource speaker of the clinic supported by the Philippine Sports Commission. Shah will discuss the theoretical and practical aspects of squash.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8 a.m. (r- 4 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA—New York Knicks vs New Jersey Nets at 8:30 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) and Charlotte Hornets vs LA Lakers at 11 a.m. (r-10:30 p.m.) on ESPN and Philadelphia 76ers vs New York Knicks at 4:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff at 7 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

MRT-SOUTHWOODS OPEN

Pagunsan 1 shot up despite 69

BY JONG ARCANO

REY Pagunsan, shooting a course record-tying of 64 on Thursday, had his 4-shot lead reduced to just one yesterday despite a three-under-par 69 in the MRT-Southwoods Open at the Southwoods Masters.

Pagunsan, a power off the tees, missed five birdies from four feet or less, giving Cassius Casas and Richard Sinfuego all the elbow room to mount a serious challenge for the P100,000 top prize over the weekend.

Pagunsan, 32, sank an eight-foot birdie on No. 2—his last hole of a shotgun tee-off—to save a 1-shot margin with his 11-under-par 133.

Casas picked up a double-bogey for the second straight day but eight birdies, including three in a row from the 15th, were more than enough to give him low medal honors with a 66. He was joined at 134 by Sinfuego, who carded another 67.

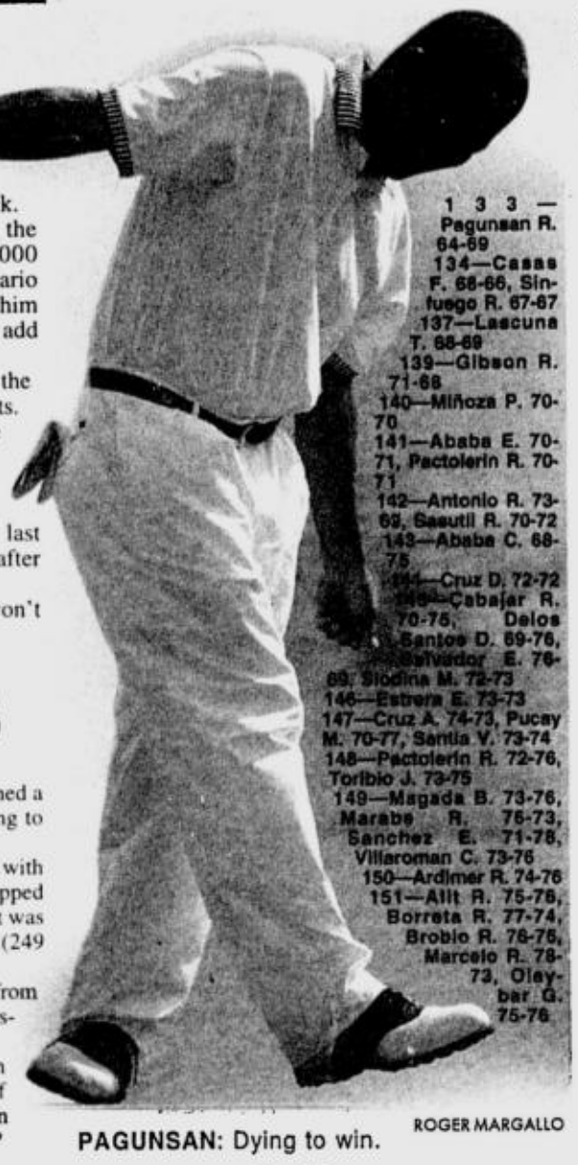
The Philippine Airlines-sponsored Casas also powered his partnership with Southwoods chair Bob Sobrepeña to victory in the pro-am where they aggregated 125 to Sinfuego and Emilio Tuason in the countback.

Roger Antonio sizzled with a 69 to rule the CAP Senior Challenge, winning the P20,000 winner's check with a three-shot win over Mario Siodina (73-145). Antonio's 142 total also put him in a tie for ninth place and in the running to add more to his winnings.

"I'm not worried at all because I stroked the ball well today even if I missed those short putts. My mission here is to beat Cassius. If I'll be able to do that, then I have a good chance of winning," said Pagunsan in Tagalog.

Pagunsan, still winless in a three-year pro career, was disqualified in the Casino Open last year for using a putter he had bent in anger after missing a short putt.

"I have learned my lesson," he said. "It won't happen again."



1 3 3 — Pagunsan R. 64-69
134—Casas F. 68-66, Sinfuego R. 67-67
137—Lascuna T. 68-69
139—Gibson R. 71-68
140—Miñoza P. 70-70
141—Ababa E. 70-71, Pactolerin R. 70-71
142—Antonio R. 73-69, Sasutil R. 70-72
143—Ababa C. 68-75
144—Cruz D. 72-72
145—Cabajar R. 70-75, Delos Santos D. 69-76, Salvador E. 76-69, Siodina M. 72-73
146—Estrera E. 73-73
147—Cruz A. 74-73, Pucay M. 70-77, Santia V. 73-74
148—Pactolerin R. 72-76, Toribio J. 73-75
149—Magada B. 73-76, Marabe R. 76-73, Sanchez E. 71-78, Villaroman C. 73-76
150—Ardimer R. 74-76
151—Alit R. 75-76, Borreta R. 77-74, Brobio R. 76-75, Marcelo R. 78-73, Oleybar G. 75-76

ROGER MARGALLO

PAGUNSAN: Dying to win.

Shark needs heart vs Welcoat today

BY DENNIS U. EROA

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Montaña Jewels (for 3rd)
4 p.m.—Shark vs Welcoat Paints (championship)

AUSTRIA

AFTER a rampaging start, titleholder Welcoat tries to further bury Shark Energy Drink in Game Two of the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven championship series today at the Makati Coliseum.

Despite the cautious stand of coach Junel Baculi, the Paintmasters are head-on favorites to prevail anew against the Energy Drink Kings, whose title-aspirations are being held back not by lack of talent but by questionable fighting hearts.

Game Two is at 4 p.m. after the 2 p.m. battle with Montaña hoping to clinch third against Blu Sun Power.

To the delight of its horn-tooting fans, Welcoat transformed a predicted close encounter into an all-Paintmasters show with a 72-59 win in Game One on Thursday.

Shark's marquee cagers Chester Tolomia, who topped the MVP statistical race, and Chairman's Cup MVP Roger Yap were big flops in Game 1.

Save for Michael Robinson, virtually the entire Shark lineup played with fear in their hearts.

"Winning Game Two will change the complexion of the series. Yes, a sweep is possible," said Welcoat coach Junel Baculi.

Welcoat isn't new to bringing the broom in championships.

It demolished Red Bull, 3-0, in the best-of-three titular series during the inaugural Challenge Cup last year. It repeated the trick against Ana Freezer before scoring a 4-0 victory over Shark in the best-of-seven Chairman's Cup showdown.

The Raymond Yu-Terry Que-owned franchise is aiming to replace Tanduay as the league's winningest squad. Tanduay, including Stag's Grand Slam in 1995, collected seven titles. Welcoat is looking for its fourth consecutive title.

Big men Ryzal Castro and Irvin Sotto were easy targets for Yancy de Ocampo and Derick Canlas, while point guards Eugene Tan and Celino Cruz routed Shark counterparts Robinson and Warren Ybañez.

Fearful of Ren Ren Ritualo, Anton Villoria and Jojo Manalo's shooting, Shark hesitated to double-team the 6-foot-9 De Ocampo. But De Ocampo proved even deadlier from the outside, gunning four triples.

For Shark to have a chance of stopping Welcoat, coach Leo Austria must have to extract more fighting spirit from his wards.

While Austria and assistants Jing Ruiz, Dayong Mendoza and Jun Galabin are not remiss in their duties, their Sharks are proving to be big disappointments with their half-hearted plays in the face of tremendous pressure.

Wounded Tiger growls

PEBBLE BEACH, California —The limp was barely noticeable as Tiger Woods headed to the first tee Thursday. What followed was a game that's all too familiar.

One day after he got tripped up by an autograph hound and injured his knee, Woods found his stride at Spyglass Hill with birdies on the last three holes for a 6-under 66 in the first round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Woods finished two strokes behind David Berganio, who had a bogey-free 64 at Spyglass under gorgeous conditions, a rarity for this tournament.

With barely a trace of wind, 114 players in the 180-man field were at par or better.

"I should be able to break 90 today," Woods joked as he walked off the putting green and headed to the range to hit balls for the first time since he sprained a ligament in his left knee Wednesday while trying to walk through a pack of fans.

Standing on the first tee, Woods reached back with his left leg and tapped the ground twice, then stepped up and belted a 321-yard (292-meter) drive. That was followed with a 3-wood that went 274 yards (249 meters) and left him pin-high to set up a birdie.

Woods said he knew nothing would keep him from his starting time. He had a brace on early Thursday, but decided to take it off before he played.

"It felt sore, yes," Woods said. "But when it's time to play, it's time to play. A friend of mine told me there's a difference between pain and injury." *AP*

Shell, Pop prevail

Game Today (Urdaneta City)
5 p.m.—Ginebra vs Tanduay

BY JUNE NAVARRO

SHELL Velocity rode on the heroics of Mark Telan to frustrate Mobiline, 68-59, last night in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Telan sparked a final quarter uprising that turned what seemed like a losing endeavor for the Turbochargers into a winning one as the 6-foot-6 pivotman delivered the killing blows for Shell's successful debut.

Complementing a visibly out of sync Benjie Paras down low, Telan showed the Phone Pals the stuff heroes are made of, topscoring for the Turbochargers with 19 points in 35 minutes of action.

"By the way he played tonight, Telan showed that he deserves the Most Improve Player Award he won last year," said Shell coach Perry Ronquillo, who was delighted to re-experience the feeling of winning after the Turbochargers got mired in the cellar most of last year.

The Turbochargers broke a long dry spell after posting only nine victories in the past season.

"I'm glad we get to know how to win in an endgame again. It's been a long time since we had that feeling," said Ronquillo.

Nelson Asaytono displayed his old deadly form in the final quarter to help Pop Cola tally an 88-77 victory over Batang Red Bull in the other game.

Asaytono scored nine of Pop Cola's last 13 points, including two key triples as the Panthers debuted on a bright note.

SHELL 68—Telan 19, Paras 11, Marzan 10, Wainwright 8, Esplana 7, Singson 7, Jackson 2, Hrabak 2, Dela Cruz 2.

MOBILINE 59—Pablo 20, Codiñera 9, Fran 8, Demape 7, Ravena 6, Camaso 4, Cui 3, Longalong 2, Babilonia 0, Gonzales 0.

QUARTERSCORES: 12-12, 34-24, 43-47, 68-59.

No racial slur vs Iverson

IVERSON

INDIANAPOLIS—There is no evidence an Indiana basketball fan made racial slurs against Philadelphia guard Allen Iverson during a game at Conseco Fieldhouse, a Pacers spokesman said Thursday.

NBC taped Iverson, who is black, shouting a derogatory remark back to the fan near the end of the 76ers' 86-81 victory on Sunday. The remark was a derogatory term for gays.

Pacers president Donnie Walsh said he was unaware of the allegation until Wednesday and would investigate the matter.

However, on Thursday, Pacers spokesman David Benner said team officials "found no evidence that a racial slur was used, so as far as we're concerned, it's over."

Walsh said the Pacers had talked to security officers who were stationed near the visiting team's bench. The racial remarks reportedly came from a fan in that area, Walsh said.

The guards told the Pacers that Iverson and the fans were cursing but that no racial epithets were uttered.

"I don't think we want to know what everybody in the arena was saying, but if something racial was said from behind the bench, we want to know that," Walsh said.

Even if someone did say something, Walsh said he doesn't believe the Pacers could take action now.

COMPLETE RESULTS

Minnesota 90, Cleveland 81; Dallas 95, Miami 91, OT; Philadelphia 87, New York 80; L.A. Clippers 101, Houston 84; Utah 87, Charlotte 76; Seattle 97, Chicago 91; Portland 100, Phoenix 92. *AP*

HENRY Liao's NBA Notes will appear tomorrow, space permitting.

Navarro tops bike race

REYNALDO Navarro edged three others in the sprint to the finish line to top the 1st Ted Cruz Cycling Classic in Mangatarem, Pangasinan, last Sunday.

Navarro, of San Jacinto, Pangasinan, clocked 4 hours 12 minutes and 36 seconds for the 172-km distance to snare the top purse of P6,000 plus trophy.

Fellow Pangasinenses Eric Obosa, Renier Austria and Wilfredo Calosa placed second, third and fourth, respectively.

Richard Aquino placed fifth, checking in six minutes after the lead pack.

Obosa got P4,000 plus trophy and Austria P3,000 plus trophy in the race held in conjunction with the Mangatarem town fiesta.

The race, which was sponsored by 2nd district Rep. Ted Cruz, drew more than 60 cyclists from Pangasinan and neighboring provinces.

Two-time Marlboro Tour champion Jess Garcia served as the race director.

La Salle shocks B. Nuevo

BACOLOD CITY—La Salle Academy of Iligan shocked St. Paul School of Barotac Nuevo, 2-1, while host West Negros College nipped NCR titlist De la Salle Zobel, 1-0, Thursday to arrange a showdown for the 17th Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 national football crown at the Paglaum Sports Complex here.

Altahil Faisal, 15-year-old reinforcement from Zamboanga City Polytechnic High, and Mark Toribio scored in the 37th and 55th minutes, respectively, to seal LSA's third finals stint in the tourney sponsored by Coca-Cola with Adidas as official ball.

WNC skipper Billy Rey Batayola converted a direct free kick from atop the penalty box in the 50th minute to give the host team another shot at the national plum.

Faisal headed by ball into the net following a goalmouth scramble for his fifth goal in the tourney.

Goalie Arnel Cementiza, a sophomore recruit from the Iligan City East High, also came up with a smashing performance to help LSA clinch the finals slot.

SPS striker Kinley Delgado scored his team's lone marker in the 69th minute.

Mandaluyong int'l derby final tonight

IT'S anybody's race for the championship as Mandaluyong Coliseum's "Mandaluyong 9-Cock International Derby" enters its final round tonight beginning at 6, with 60 fights on tap. Sponsors are Pagcor-Casino Filipino and Sagupaan Super Feeds in cooperation with Lakpue Drug Inc.

Mindanao cockers Boyboy Roa and Mayor Claudy Bautista (CPB PBRJI) lead the pack with 4.5 points after two days of gruelling encounters.

With four points apiece are Esting Teopaco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez (EGT Stinger), Raymond Velayo (Arnis Master III Sarge), Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos (BJ Greenwood II), Tony Tan (Swing), Patrick Antonio and Tony Litonjua (Starwars Sagupaan), Boy Enriquez and derby host Vic Yu (Marvelous Jay) and Magno Lim (LNF Cagayan GP).

The 4th Ucap/PBRJ Farm CPB 6-Cock Derby is slated on Feb. 6 and Feb. 8 with Boyboy Roa and Mayor Claudy Bautista as hosts. For inquiries, call 747-4797, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

Roligon cockfest on

THE MUCH heralded group of foreign-based Filipino cockers who met each other via the sabong.com.ph website and formed themselves as the Cyberfriends will launch their determined bid to conquer the historic Roligon Mega Cockpit's 11th Anniversary Derby. They have seven entries named Cyberfriends I to VII.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Alert One 2. Precious Time 3. Hinobaan's Pride
Race 2—1. Woman's Task 2. Heavenly Wings 3. Padron Real
Race 3—1. Star Sister 2. Shuttle's Rianne 3. D Pen Traveller
Race 4—1. Boy Yoski 2. Lorna 3. Dynasty 4. Something Best
Race 5—1. Angelovich 2. Star of Arabia 3. Change for Keeps
Race 6—1. Palace Hero 2. Penlace 3. Might Glow 4. Hurry King
Race 7—1. Lady Victoria 2. Winning Post 3. Miss New York 4. D Optician
Race 8—1. No Regrets 2. Wag Ingay 3. Virtual Reality 4. Leverage Buyer
Race 9—1. Heir Apparent 2. Flying Fortress 3. Money in Motion
Race 10—1. Walang Hanggan 2. Timber Nectar 3. Geewhiz 4. Kala Star
Race 11—1. Gold Marlin 2. Bull Dancing 3. Spoiler 4. Strong Bird
Race 12—1. Uncle Zaam 2. Hurry Prince 3. Secret Quest 4. En Carta
Race 13—1. Super Strong 2. Lovely Luigi 3. Manila Mauler 4. Joker's Wild

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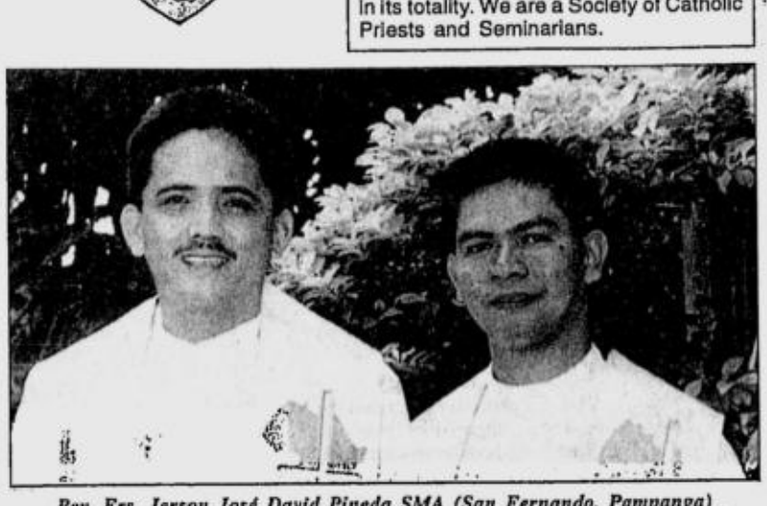

Rev. Frs. Jerson José David Pineda SMA (San Fernando, Pampanga) and Alan Badana Cañaneo SMA (Cebu City), who left recently for Mission in Ghana, West Africa.

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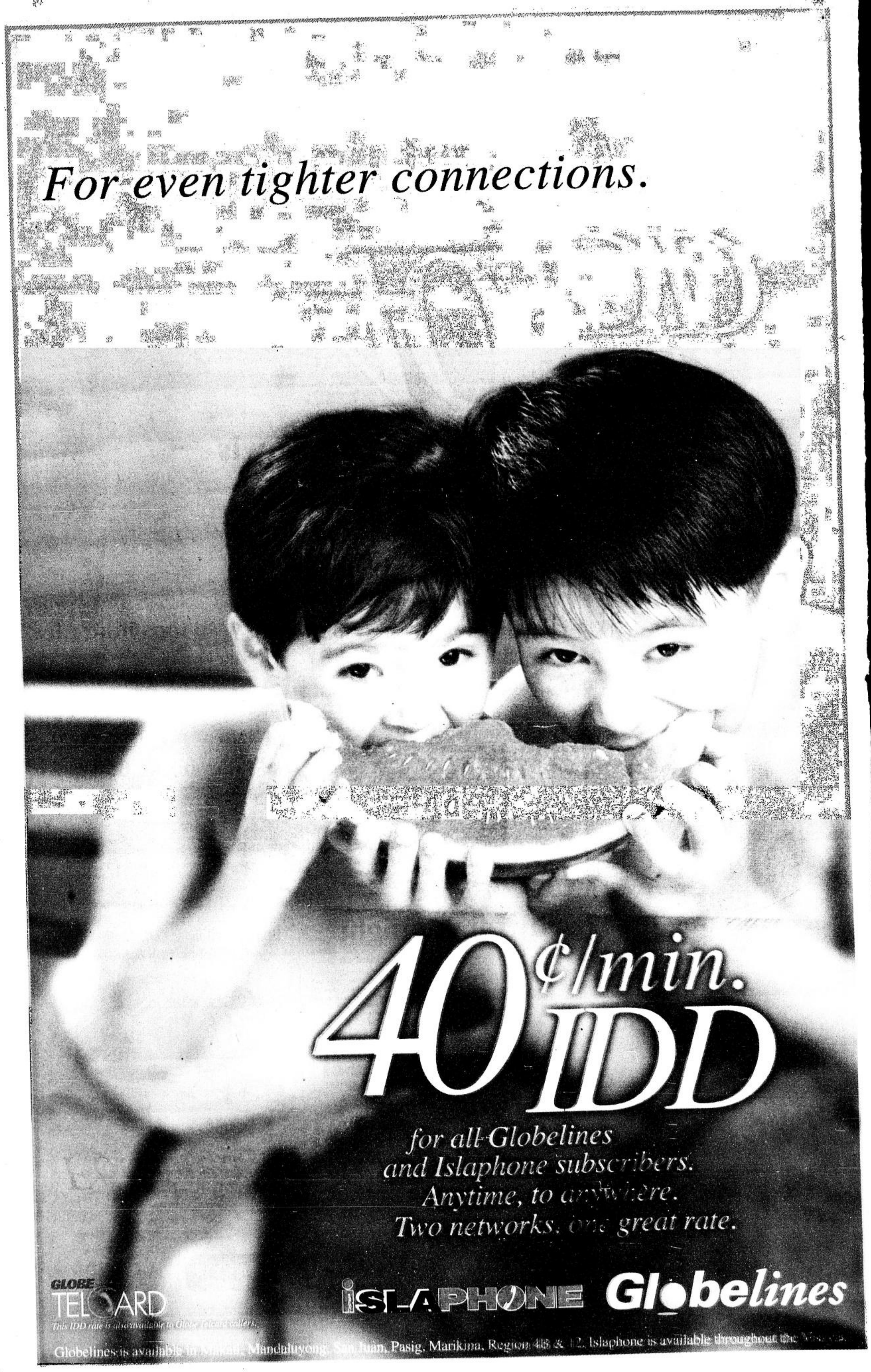
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dzRH employees complain of 'virtual martial law' A20
Comedian councilor says he was offered 'millions' to be Asistio running mate A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

The Corrs cancelled

THE CORRS, the popular Irish band composed of three sisters and a brother, have postponed their "In Blue" tour in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Philippines where they were originally slated to

THE CORRS/ A20

Newsman's house bombed

BY JEROME ANING

POLICE suspect that a Japan-based syndicate said to be preying on Filipino entertainers was responsible for yesterday's grenade attack on the house of a National Press Club director in Manila.

Drive-by attackers threw two MK-2 hand grenades at the house of NPC director Willie Espiritu on Opalo Street in San Andres Bukid, Manila about 3 a.m. yesterday, police said.

Espiritu is a reporter and columnist for Exclusive and Diario 1, a radio commentator for station dwAN Willie, and president of the Federation of Entertainment Talent Managers of the Philippines.

The first grenade tore a hole on the roof of the house, damaging a Mercedes Benz (TMR-889) and Suzuki scooter (TC-7661) parked inside the garage.

The second one slipped into the hole on the roof and exploded in the kitchen. It destroyed window panels and a refrigerator, police said.

Wency Espiritu, 42, the newsman's cousin and general manager of Yume Talents Specialist and Management Service based at the Espiritu residence, said he was sound asleep in another room when the explosions came.

"The first grenade hit the roof, so I hit the floor," Wency said. "The second one landed in the kitchen and shrapnel hit the wall just above my head."

Senior Insp. Lorenzo Molato, head of the Western Police District's explosives and ordnance disposal section, said his men recovered from the scene fragments of the grenades, two safety levers, two fuse assemblies and a safety pin.

In different interviews over various radio stations yesterday,

NEWSMAN'S/ A20

Jinggoy still heads League

SAN Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada is still the head of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) even if he earlier said he would resign as its national president following the ouster of his father, former President Estrada.

But during the LMP directorate meeting at the Hyatt Hotel in Pasay City on Thursday, the league refused to accept Estrada's resignation.

Some of the member mayors, including Estrada's immediate successor, Mayor Julius Herrera of Bohol, who declined the post, objected to Estrada's resignation.

The LMP is an association of 1,525 municipal mayers around the country, majority of whom belong to the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), the political party of the deposed president. At the height of "Juetengate," the LMP issued a manifesto in support of the young Estrada.

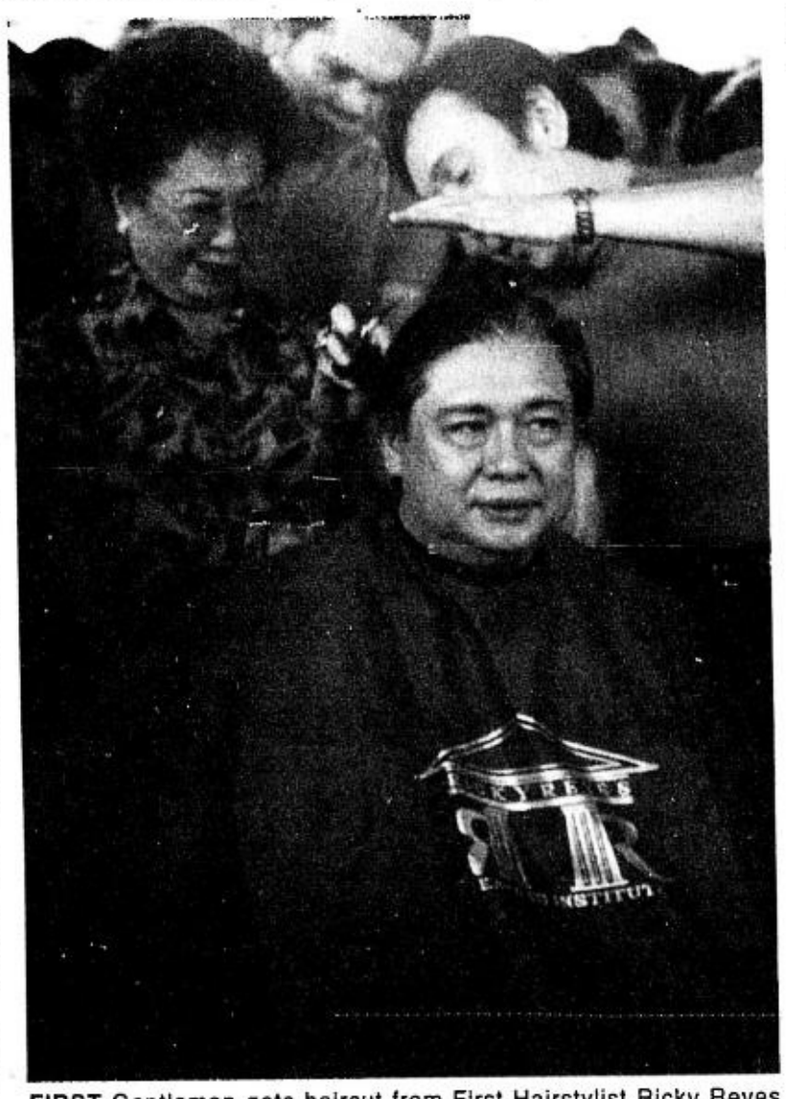
"There is no question that we want Jinggoy," said Mayor Arlene Navarro of Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte. "We owe him a lot. He should finish the term."

Mayor Myrna Lacanilao of Brooke's Point, Palawan echoed the sentiment. "He should be allowed to finish his term until the next elections," she said.

Lacanilao is also the president of the Lady Mayors Association of the Philippines, which has 229 members.

In his address to the LMP, the San Juan mayor said he was resigning because he could no longer do any good for the LMP since his father was already out of Malacañang.

Alcuin Papa



FIRST Gentleman gets haircut from First Hairstylist Ricky Reyes while former First Lady Ming Ramos beams. MIKE ALQUINTO

GMA hubby launches Smokey livelihood project

BY LEAH SALTERIO

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's husband yesterday launched an extensive livelihood project at Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila by getting a haircut.

Arroyo helped launched "Isang Gunting, Isang Suklay" at the former dumpsite to encourage residents to be more productive.

It was Arroyo's first official activity under the administration of his wife, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

GMA HUBBY/ A20

P15 MILLION

UP's ex-student regent accused of embezzlement

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

AFTER Sen. Miriam's Santiago's infamous comment about UP law graduates going where the money is during the Senate impeachment trial, the University of the Philippines academic community again found itself in the center of a controversy after its former student regent was accused of embezzling P15 million in public funds.

Hannah Eunice Serana, who was the UP student regent last year, is

UP'S EX-STUDENT/ A20

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dzRH employees complain of 'virtual martial law'

By Alcuin Papa

EMPLOYEES of radio network dzRH on Thursday complained of "virtual martial law" being carried out in their Makati offices where some employees who are due to be terminated at the end of the month were not allowed entry.

Florence Baesa, assistant managing editor of the radio station's provincial desk, told the Inquirer that station security guards refused to let her into the building.

Baesa, who has been with the station since 1987, said that when she went to dzRH on Thursday to pick up documents on her termination, the security guards told her that "someone from upstairs" ordered them not to let her in.

She was told that there was a memo "from upstairs" but the guards could not show her a copy. Later, she was allowed to enter anyway on the condition that she be escorted by one of the guards.

Humiliated, Baesa left.

"I was harassed and I felt it was very degrading," she said. "I was not doing anything wrong. Am I a thief? Are we under martial law again?"

Another female employee told the Inquirer the security guards also barred her from entering the building on Thursday. She said the guards also told her there were orders "from upstairs" not to let her in.

She said she was told she needed clearance to get in and that retrenched employees were banned from the premises.

"Technically, we are still employees because our termination will be effective until the end of this month," she said. "But I felt like a criminal. Am I a security threat to this company?"

"There is no law barring terminated employees from entering their place of work," said Baesa's lawyer, Geihrjem Puracan. "She (Baesa) has not technically been terminated so she still works there. Under our labor laws, an employee is entitled to healthy working conditions free from harassment, to respect and dignity in the workplace."

The Inquirer tried but failed to reach the station's executive vice president, Hadrian Arroyo. The Inquirer was told he was in a meeting.

MBC president Ruperto Nicdao was also in a meeting and was unavailable for comment.

The Inquirer earlier reported that dzRH, the nation's oldest radio station, was terminating 179 employees effective the end of this month.

The employees were told the station was losing money. But the employees said the station had just procured equipment and 12 pickups.

A barrio of 'carnappers'

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE NEWLY installed Macapagal administration laughs at deposed President Estrada for saying that he's just on leave and that President Macapagal-Arroyo is an "acting president."

Estrada's claim is considered a joke, but the last laugh might be his if Ms Macapagal doesn't watch out.

Estrada is a crowd charmer and may convince many people, especially the ignorant poor, that he's still the president. He was not a good actor for nothing.

* * *

What does this mean? That Estrada is not down and out as some people think he is.

Look how he swaggered at the convention of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino. He had the look of complete confidence. He must have something up his sleeves.

With P11 billion and a couple of million dollars allegedly stashed in several banks, he could wage a counter-coup against Ms Macapagal's government.

* * *

Erap could hire foreign mercenaries to grab back from Ms Macapagal the power he lost through People Power II.

Mercenaries are a dime a dozen in the United States. A lot of them are former commandos from the US Special Forces or the US Navy Seals. Many of them miss the days they saw action in many undeclared wars by their government. For the right price, they would willingly fight a foreign war.

With their combat experience, the mercenaries would be hard to beat.

* * *

The Marcoses hired American mercenaries to fight the Aquino government. But something went wrong somewhere and the deal didn't push through.

The deal fell through probably because the Marcoses, Ilocanos as they are, found the mercenaries too expensive.

But if the deal pushed through, the Aquino government would have fallen because it would have fought two enemies—the rightist rebels and the Marcos mercenaries.

* * *

That's why the Macapagal government should give a serious thought having Estrada live in exile.

Yes, there is no provision in our laws and the Constitution to send a deposed leader in exile. But can't the government think of ways to send Estrada out of the country?

With Estrada here, he can do much to destabilize the government and the economy. He still has many followers who believe in him. And his followers will increase by the day if he continues to stay in the country.

Remember, Filipinos root for the underdog and Estrada is now the underdog.

* * *

Many residents in Barangay Kapalangan in Apalit, Pampanga, have a unique cottage industry: They chop up stolen cars brought to them and sell the spare parts and body parts.

My spy says that if you need a cheap spare part for your car, chances are you may find it at Barangay Kapalangan.

The barangay is a dump for cars stolen in Metro Manila and neighboring areas, my spy says.

It's impossible that the local police don't know what's going on there.

* * *

Barangay Kapalangan has become what Cavite was: a place where "carnapped" or stolen vehicles were brought and knocked down, and the parts sold apiece.

Sometimes, my spy says, stolen cars are sold whole in Barangay Kapalangan.

The Pampanga police should raid the barangay and arrest residents found in possession of car part. The parts found are surely stolen.

But I'm sure the local police are hesitant to go after the fences (people who sell stolen goods) because they are in cahoots with them.

* * *

Police two-star general Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., the new chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), should order a raid on Barangay Kapalangan.

I'm sure a syndicate or several syndicates engaged in stealing cars are behind the dumping of stolen cars in that barrio in Pampanga.

As its name suggests, PAOCTF's specialty is going after organized crime. Carnapping is one of them.

Comedian councilor says he was offered 'millions' to be Asistio running mate

By Christian V. Esguerra

COMEDIAN and Caloocan Councilor Dennis Padilla yesterday claimed that Vice Mayor Oscar Malapitan offered him "millions" to run as Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio's vice mayor in the May elections.

Padilla, a supporter of Asistio's fierce rival Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, said Malapitan made the "gentlemanly" offer three weeks ago.

"(Malapitan's) approach was cordial," Padilla told the Inquirer. "He offered me millions if I would agree to be Asistio's running mate. I was not forced."

Malapitan, who bolted out of Malonzo's party and joined the Asistio camp last year, gave Padilla a week to consider the offer, the councilor added.

A week later, he cordially declined the offer because he could not leave Malonzo, Padilla said.

"Loyalty has no price," Padilla said. "Malonzo is my mentor. Everything I know about politics I learned from him."

According to Padilla, Asistio's group made the offer to him because they believed he would be a stronger vice mayoral candidate over Councilor Henry Cammayo.

But Malapitan denied his story.

"It's not true," the vice mayor said. "The amount is unbelievable. Asistio has principles. He won't do that."

An enraged Asistio said: "*Kahit* P15,000 *hindi ko babayaran 'yan. Pinamamahal niya ang sarili niya. Sino'ng kukuha sa gagong 'yan?*"

Asistio said he would never invite Padilla to join his ticket, believing the councilor was a "disgrace."

"Caloocan has deteriorated because of the likes of him," Asistio told the Inquirer. "We have an actor, a comedian, and a referee, so there's no governance. In turn, we have a lot of garbage and employees who do not receive their salaries on time."

Malonzo is a former action movie actor. Administration Councilor Luis "Tito" Varela is a former basketball player and referee.

Varela is likely to be Malonzo's running mate in the May elections.

Asistio warned Caloocan residents not to vote for Malonzo and his supporters for that would only worsen the city's condition.

"I'm running for mayor because I want to bring back Caloocan's old glory," he said. "Malonzo and his men only thrive on lies and misrepresentations.

"I don't have money to offer to the people. I can only offer public service, which I've been doing for the last nine years. If the people think that my service is not enough, it's fine with me."

New traffic scheme for Naia announced

TOURISM Secretary Richard J. Gordon yesterday announced a new airport traffic scheme that he said would advance the country's drive to attract more tourists.

Gordon, head of an inter-agency committee for improved airport access, said the *estero*-lined Electrical Road would be closed starting Sunday, Feb. 4.

Motorists will use an enhanced Quirino Avenue to make their way to and from the airport, he said. Three lanes of Quirino Avenue will be for airport access southbound and one lane northbound.

The head of PATTS School of Aeronautics near the airport said hundreds of students would hold a clean-up beautification drive around the airport.

PATTS president Nini Valdez said the student volunteers would start cleaning the airport surroundings on Monday morning.

Gordon is also set to meet barangay captains of areas around the airport to discuss how the country's tourism campaign can take off with their cooperation.

The inter-agency committee met Wednesday night to fast-track plans for improved airport access. Represented in the committee are the Metro Manila Development Authority, the departments of public works and highways, transportation and communication, social work and development, the PNP Aviation Security Group, MIA Administration, and the local governments of Pasay, Parañaque and Manila.

Gordon thanked the MMDA and the DPWH for their work on rerouting and access improvements.

He said the DPWH has committed that by March 1, an overpass on Roxas Boulevard in front of the Baclaran Church would be operational. An inter-modal transport terminal on Roxas Boulevard at the PBA property is also underway so loading and unloading would not take place on the boulevard itself.

The Domestic Airport Road will be able to accommodate two-way traffic by end of March 2001. As widened, it will have six to eight lanes with proper lighting and signs.

Gordon also announced plans for the color-coding of taxis to make tourist transport efficient. "Tourists need to know that we mean it when we say, 'Come, we'll take care of you,'" he said.

"We will enjoin our drivers to come up with better service," he said. "Drivers of airport taxis will wear uniforms bearing identification numbers easily read by his passengers. Taxi fares will be standardized, not only to avoid overcharging but also to enable tourists to make precise computations of their expected expenses in traveling in the Philippines."

GMA . . .

(From page A19)

Isang Gunting, Isang Suklay is an ongoing project of the Helping Foundation, which has former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos as honorary chair and hairdresser Ricky Reyes as executive director.

Arroyo marked the launch by having his hair cut by Reyes, who is himself active in socio-civic projects.

Reyes said Arroyo met with Ms Ramos last Saturday to seek the help of the former First Lady in the various livelihood projects he was planning to launch.

"He (Arroyo) wants to focus on livelihood projects because he believes that when people have work, there is less crime," Reyes told the Inquirer.

Reyes said Smokey Mountain was the best place to launch the livelihood project.

"We want to teach the residents to become engaged in livelihood projects instead of becoming scavengers," he said.

Arroyo also asked Ms Ramos to revive her "Clean and Green" project, which she launched during the Ramos administration.

Reyes said the Helping Foundation has put up livelihood centers in provinces all over the country, including Cavite, Mt. Province, Isabela, Leyte, Iloilo and Pangasinan.

Three new ones will be set up this year in Cagayan, Rizal and Cotabato, Reyes said.

The livelihood programs include courses in food technology, tailoring, cosmetology, welding, arts, electronics and hotel and restaurant management.

There are also short courses in basic and advanced computer training, duster-making and detergent soap-making, and plant propagation.

UP's ex-student . . .

(From page A19)

in hot water after the P15 million intended for the renovation of Vinzon's Hall Annex in the UP Diliman campus went missing last October, said Jayson Edward San Juan, Samasa student party chair.

The Presidential Management Staff (PMS) had allocated the money after then President Estrada approved the project. Serana had personally proposed to Estrada in February 2000 to turn Vinzon's Hall Annex into the "President Joseph Ejercito Estrada Student Hall."

"The 'Estrada Student Hall' shall be a material manifesto of His Excellency's support to intellectual rejuvenation and renaissance," Serana said in a letter in September in which she asked for an audience with Estrada.

The PMS released the money on the last week of October and Serana allegedly withdrew it from the Land Bank Malacañang branch on Oct. 25.

The anomaly was exposed only after the PMS inquired two Tuesdays ago about the status of the Vinzon's Hall Annex renovation.

It was also discovered that Serana used an allegedly bogus foundation, the Office of the Student Regent Foundation Inc. (OSRF), which had her relatives as trustees, to negotiate with architects for the project.

UP student officials yesterday denied having any knowledge about Serana's Estrada Student Hall project.

"She did not inform us about it," UP Diliman student council vice chair Ninai Festin said. "She did it in her own."

Festin said Serana mentioned her plan to renovate Vinzon's Hall Annex last summer but she did not inform the UP Board of Regents or the UP system's different student councils that she got P15 million for the project.

"She did not say that she was going to name it after Estrada," Festin said.

She said graft charges are being prepared against Serana. UP's legal counsel is also looking for her in Cebu.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, February 3, 2001
4th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Heb 13:15-17, 20-21*

Gospel: *Mk 6:30-34*

The apostles returned and reported to Jesus all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, "Go off by yourselves to a remote place and have some rest." For there were so many people coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a secluded area by themselves.

But people saw them leaving and many could guess where they were going. So, from all the towns they hurried there on foot, arriving ahead of them.

As Jesus went ashore he saw a large crowd, and he had compassion on them for they were like sheep, without a shepherd. And he began a long teaching session with them.

Commentary:

Instead of bringing just his disciples to a far-off place to rest a while, Jesus ends up leading the rest of the weary crowds to a deserted place and giving them rest with consoling words as he teaches them at length. He democratizes the retreat. It is no longer just for the apostles, it is for everybody. Like sheep without a shepherd, the scattered crowds are now gathered together around him. And as he teaches (and later feeds them as well), Jesus himself becomes their Shepherd, their real leader. Ultimately, the whole thing was really meant for his disciples. By getting them involved in the teaching and feeding, he was really teaching them the art of Shepherding.

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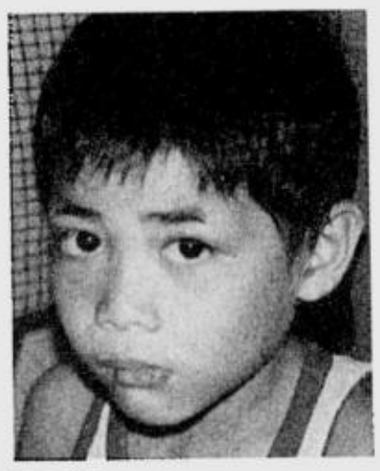


LOPEZ

FOUND

JAY Ar Lopez, 4, was found on Jan. 3 at 6:10 p.m. at the MRT station on Edsa in Mandaluyong City. He is now in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. His relatives may contact Milagros Lagaren of DSWD Mandaluyong at 535-71-27 or Eduardo Ceneta of the city's Bantay Bayan at 533-16-55.

Newsman's . . .

(From page A19)

Espiritu said he recently exposed a syndicate that allegedly victimized Japan-bound Filipino entertainers.

He said he strongly suspected the group to be behind the grenade attack.

The NPC director, who is now in Tokyo working on an investigative report, said the syndicate has also been cheating Japanese airline authorities, particularly Japan Air Lines.

He said the syndicate, through a travel agency, lures entertainers by offering them 50-percent discount if they let their baggage pass through the agency's departure counters in various Japanese international airports such as the one in Narita.

He said the syndicate then alters the records by deducting five kilos from the real weight. This prompted most overseas workers with excess baggage weight to turn to the syndicate, he said.

Espiritu said the syndicate would at times refuse to give the promised discount. If a passenger dared to complain, the syndicate would threaten to turn the baggage over to the JAL counter for full payment.

He claimed that this modus operandi cost JAL and other airlines billions of pesos in profits every year, not to mention losses in government revenue.

With a report from AFP

The Corrs cancelled

(From page A19)

perform on Feb. 16.

According to a statement from Warner Music Philippines, lead singer and tin-whistle player Andrea Corr is suffering from a severe ear infection and has been advised by doctors not to travel.

Unless Andrea has a complete rest from touring and performing, she is likely to incur permanent damage, the statement said.

Nelcom Marketing Enterprises, the promoter of the Manila concert, assured all ticket holders that an announcement would be made next week regarding a new date for The Corrs concert.

Nelcom advised all ticket holders to hold on to their The Corrs concert tickets.

Aside from the Manila concert, The Corrs also postponed their performances in Osaka and Tokyo in Japan, Singapore, Melbourne, Sydney, New Zealand, Jakarta, and Kuala Lumpur.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY)—Robbery with homicide—In robbery with homicide, the prosecution must prove the following elements: (1) the taking of personal property with the use of violence or intimidation against a person; (2) the property thus taken belongs to another; (3) the taking is characterized by *animus lucrandi*; and (4) on the occasion of the robbery or by reason thereof, the crime of homicide, as used in its generic sense, was committed. In robbery with homicide, the principal purpose of the accused must be shown to commit robbery, the homicide being committed either by reason of, or on occasion of the robbery. The homicide may precede or occur after the robbery. What is essential is that there is a nexus, an intimate connection between robbery and the killing, whether the latter be prior or subsequent to the former, or whether both crimes be committed at the same time. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Barreta, G.R. No. 120367, October 16, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Withdrawal of P238,000 an 'isolated case'—BPI

OFFICIALS of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) said the arrest of the suspected "ATM thief" who was allegedly able to withdraw P238,000 from an ATM machine was due to the bank's security and surveillance efforts.

"It's an isolated case," said a BPI statement. "We have been monitoring the suspect's withdrawals and our security personnel have been alerted to her. That is why she was apprehended by the security guards."

The bank brushed aside earlier reports that the suspect was a computer hacker or a member of a syndicate. The suspect, Marivic Galas, was apprehended on Jan. 31 at about 10:30 a.m. by bank guards.

BPI officials said the woman's withdrawals were made during a busy time, according to Tessie Tan, vice president for card banking.

"Our routine security system is in place and has worked well," she stressed. "Any similar attempts in the future to defraud the bank will likewise be immediately spotted and will get proper legal action."

'VERTICAL LIMIT'

Jaw-dropping suspense, courtesy of computers

BY PAUL Y. DAZA

THE HIGH-ALTITUDE adventure "Vertical Limit," starring Chris O'Donnell and Scott Glenn, will likely end up being another blockbuster.

A more realistic version of movies like Sylvester Stallone's "Cliffhanger," "Vertical Limit" is crammed with enough clever action and nail-biting suspense to keep genre fans satisfied until the next installment of James Bond or "Mission: Impossible." The death-defying stunts in this movie may look familiar, but computer enhancements, which were impossible to do five years ago, give them a jaw-dropping spin.

REVIEW

"Vertical Limit" is about a rescue operation motivated by greed and love. When billionaire Elliott Vaughn (Bill Paxton) is trapped in a cave along with a couple of other mountaineers as a result of a publicity stunt, he offers $500,000 to anyone who will try to rescue him. Peter Garrett (Chris O'Donnell), a photojournalist for National Geographic, signs up for one of the slots, not for the money but because his estranged sister Annie (Robin Tunney) is also trapped with Vaughn.

The movie plays out like a standard obstacle course, with each hurdle more difficult than the last. In addition to the obligatory cliffhanging dilemmas, the search and rescue party must also deal with volatile chemicals, overworked helicopters, avalanches and an assortment of medical ailments.

Director Martin Campbell, who previously helmed action-adventure movies like "The Mask Of Zorro" and "The World is Not Enough," keeps things moving along briskly. He starts "Vertical Limit" with a gripping sequence that lays the foundation for the internal conflict of two of his main characters.

From there, he allows the viewer only a few brief respites from the nervous tension that soon engulfs the story. Taking a cue from "Cliffhanger" director Renny Harlin, Campbell borrows a trick from the 1999 shark flick "Deep Blue Sea," in which humor is used as a precursor to a sudden death.

No romantic subplots

The only instance where Campbell deviates from the standard action-movie formula is in his decision to abstain from using sex and sexy scenes. Most action-adventure movies have an obligatory love story tacked on to them. You'll be surprised to know that there are no such romantic subplots in "Vertical Limit."

The love that drives this adventure forward is the bond between brother and sister, and there are no love scenes anywhere, whether gratuitous or otherwise. As such, "Vertical Limit" is probably the first *chaste* action-adventure movie made by Hollywood.

It's likely, however, that you won't notice that anything's missing from the movie, because the action sequences are abundantly satisfying. The special effects used to enhance the element of danger at high altitudes are so good that they are nearly invisible.

I say "nearly invisible" because the mountaineers perform certain feats that are impossible in real life, such as successfully piercing a cliff with an axe in mid-fall.

Impossible to tell

In many scenes, however, you won't even know that you're watching special effects. I was amused to learn that most of "Vertical Limit" was filmed in New Zealand instead of the Himalayas, where the story is set. So cleverly did the filmmakers intercut footage of the real Himalayas, the smaller scale mountains of New Zealand, and a few detailed miniatures created by the art department, that it's impossible to tell which is which.

As for the actors, they're all fine. Chris O'Donnell gives the character of Peter Garrett a solid emotional center even though the role is more of a physical challenge. As a mysterious mountain hermit, Scott Glenn is his usual competent self. I was distracted though by the long silver hair he sports here. For me, Glenn will always be Jodie Foster's clean-cut boss in "The Silence of the Lambs," and his wig in "Vertical Limit" is a tad distracting.

I was also pleasantly surprised to see Nicholas Lea in this film as a mountaineering expert. He's a recurring actor on the sci-fi TV series "The X-Files," where he plays a dashing villain. In "Vertical Limit," Lea is underutilized. His fans will have to wait for another movie to see if he's got a career on the big screen carved out for him.

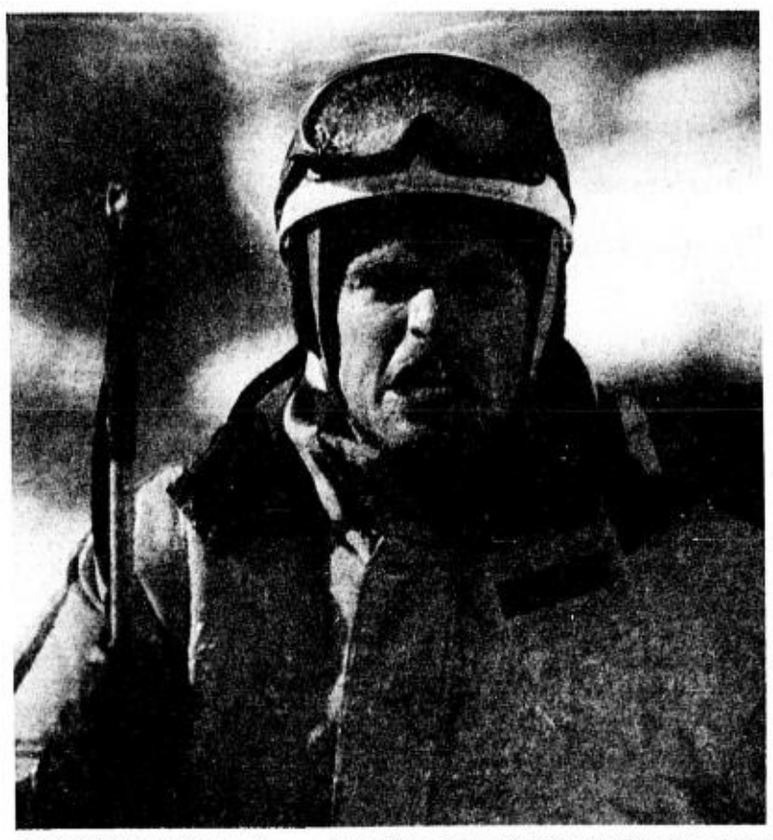
No excuse

I do, however, have a couple of quibbles with "Vertical Limit." If visual effects artists have the equipment and the talent to make stunt wires disappear and to replace the faces of stunt men with the faces of actors, why can't they also make the microphones disappear from the frame?

In two consecutive shots near the end of the movie, the microphone which records the voices of the actors is plainly visible as it dangles above O'Donnell and another performer.

The opening rock-climbing sequence in Utah also isn't totally believable, as the light which bathes a O'Donnell and Robin Tunney in their close-ups makes the scene look like it was done indoors instead of outdoors.

There's simply no excuse for mistakes like these when they are made by big-budgeted Hollywood movies which have trained us to expect nothing less than technical perfection.



CHRIS O'DONNELL gives a fine show as a photojournalist who signs up for the rescue.

Gentleman Rustom mum on Carmina's babies

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

WHEN **Rustom Padilla** and I were guests on "Today With Kris," I tried to corner him about how he felt when he heard the news that his ex-wife **Carmina Villaroel** had given birth in the US. Like a true gentleman, he refused to comment.

I respect his silence because he's obviously hurting deep inside. His sad eyes say everything that he can't say.

Jackie Aquino and I were trying to downplay the issue by asking Rustom to answer a multiple-choice question. "Do you feel: a) sad b) hurt c) angry?" He just smiled faintly and said, "That's not the topic on 'Kris Today.'" Then, like a little lost boy he scampered out of the make-up room.

Cesar Montano can hardly contain his joy now that **Sunshine Cruz** is pregnant with their first baby. It has definitely made him love her more.

To reaffirm that love, Cesar bought Sunshine a three-karat diamond ring. But, of course, no diamond could outshine the glow in the face of the mother-to-be. Last New Year, Cesar gave her a Black Expedition, a flat TV and a VCD player. How can Cesar outdo himself on Valentine's Day? What lavish surprise for Sunshine will he think of next?

Candid Chavit

I FINALLY got a chance to meet Ilocos Sur Gov. **Chavit Singson** in Kris' show. I was awed to be face to face with the man who first opened the door that led to Edsa.

At first I thought he was unapproachable. When the show ended, the audience mobbed him. They asked for his autograph and wanted to have their pictures taken with him. He gamely obliged.

What struck me is that he just didn't sign his name but included a short message to each person. He also took time out to pose with everyone, while most stars and politicians would just give in to a handful and leave in a jiffy.

I also asked him to sign my notebook. He wrote: "Dear Dolly . . . My victory is also your victory . . ." Then, he handed me his calling card and told me, "Come visit Ilocos. Give me a call anytime." Before he left, he even teased me, "By the way, my calling card can be used as a credit card."

It was refreshing to see his other side. The tough and serious governor on TV has a funny bone after

GENTLEMEN/A22

Martin celebrates birthday in 'Aftershock' tonight

"XV3, The Aftershock—The Crossover Live Tour" takes place at the PSC-Philsports (formerly Ultra) Football Field tonight at 8.

After taking Davao, Cebu and Bacolod by storm, Concert King Martin is set to do the same in Manila with another spectacular show, which also happens to be his birthday

NIEVERA

celebration.

Martin will be backed up by the Hotlegs in many numbers. Most of his friends in the business are expected to jam with him on stage.

Tickets at P1,200 (VIP seats), P700, P250 and P100 are available at major National Bookstore Ticketworld outlets, Robinson's Department Stores Customer Service Section (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), and at the Music Museum.

For inquiries and reservations, call Ticketworld at 891-5610, Big Mouth International at 818-7072, and Crossover at 712-9884 and 731-1667.

XV3 will have its final stop at the Burgos Gym of St. Louis University in Baguio City on Feb. 10 at 8 p.m., with the Hotlegs and Jon Santos as special guests and 105.1 Crossover-Baguio as carrying station.

Rustom...

(From page A21)

all. Now, he can really laugh out loud because, as they say, he who laughs last, laughs the loudest.

Bojo's meow

IT'S always fun hanging out with **Bojo Molina** in his bar Friends. When you unburden yourself to him, he has a way of making you laugh at yourself.

In the midst of our talk, I asked him pointblank, "So did you watch **Rica Peralejo**'s (his ex) 'Balahibong Pusa?' I heard she's really daring in that film."

He smiled wryly. "Nope! I respect her that much." To lighten the mood, I shot back, "Maybe you have asthma that's why you're allergic to cats and can't watch 'Balahibong Pusa?'" We both had a good laugh.

For feedback e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

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6 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DUDE
7 DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
8 DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9 DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
10 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
SM CITY FAIRVIEW	9380720
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3 DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
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5 DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
6 DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
7 DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
8 DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
9 DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10 DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
11 DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
12 DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET
SM CITY MANILA	8239240
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2 DOLBY DIGITAL	WHAT WOMEN WANT
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4 DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
5 DOLBY DIGITAL	THE YARDS
6 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
7 DOLBY SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
8 DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9 DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
10 DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET
11 DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
12 DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
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2 DOLBY SURROUND	THE YARDS
3 DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
4 DTS	WHAT WOMEN WANTS
5 DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE
6 DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET
7 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
8 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BOOBA
9 DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
10 DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
12 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
SM CITY NORTH EDSA	9295452
1 DOLBY SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
2 DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
5 DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
6 DOLBY SURROUND	THE YARDS
7 DTS	WHAT WOMEN WANTS
8 DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
9 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
10 DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RED PLANET
12 DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE
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3 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
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5 ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
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7 ULTRA SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
8 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	WHAT WOMEN WANT
9 ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
10 ULTRA SURROUND	THE YARDS
TUTUBAN CENTER	2614302
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3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
SM CEBU	2313876
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3 ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE
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5 ULTRA SURROUND	NAGHUHUMIYAW
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4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
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3 TABI TABI PO	3 VERTICAL LIMIT THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 VERTICAL LIMIT in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	3 THE YARDS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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GOTESCO CINEMA

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4 SYOTA NG BAYAN
5
6

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2 BOOBA
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8 BALAHIBONG PUSA
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Commonwealth tel 951.0083
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8 WHAT WOMEN WANT

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4 VERTICAL LIMIT

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1
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Super Cinerama (Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
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3 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 WHAT WOMAN WANT

Divisoria Mall (Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
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3 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
4 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
5 BOOBA
6 VERTICAL LIMIT

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3 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
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3 (DTS) VERTICAL LIMIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
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2 (DTS) BOOBA
3 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
4 TABI TABI PO

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
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2 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
3 SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 (DTS) TABI TABI PO

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 (DTS) TABI TABI PO
4 REMEMBER THE TITANS
5 BOOBA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
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2 TABI TABI PO
3 VERTICAL LIMIT

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101
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2 TABI TABI PO
3 VERTICAL LIMIT

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2 BOOBA
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2 LITTLE NICKY
3 TABI TABI PO

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
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3 BOOBA
4 TABI TABI PO

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Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365
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2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 TABI TABI PO

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2 BOOBA
3 HIGHLANDER
4 REMEMBER THE TITANS

Berma tel 879.2168
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TABI TABI PO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WHAT WOMAN WANT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE YARDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BOOBA
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TANDEM-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-2	WHIPPED
TIMES	READY TO RUMBLE / CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
QUEZON-1	TABI TABI PO
REMAR	SYOTA NG BAYAN
REMAR-2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	SYOTA NG BAYAN
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OCEAN CINEMA-B	TABI TABI PO
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	VERTICAL LIMIT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-6	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-7	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
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CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	WHAT WOMAN WANT
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Nora Aunor out of the screen and Erap's shadow and into politics

BY ISKHO F. LOPEZ

NORA Aunor is no stranger to the role of an *aktibista* for she has had the chance to play it in the movies. But at the Edsa Shrine two weeks ago, she played the role for real as she added her voice to the growing cry for Joseph Estrada to leave the presidency.

Her move made the front pages and provided the event a major dramatic highlight. While the Edsa crowd gave her thunderous welcome, pro-Erap diehards expressed dismay.

"*Nagtampo,*" explained a Malacañang spokesperson, dismissing the superstar's unexpected turnaround. He said Aunor evidently felt taken for granted when Estrada turned down her request for political support in the May elections.

The attempt to downplay the impact of her "defection" failed miserably as the Edsa crowd cheered her presence. It did not matter that her decision came late in the day. What counted was that she finally made a stand and called for Estrada to resign.

For People Power II, it was a major coup.

Aunor was a plus factor during Estrada's presidential campaign in 1998. She was the main attraction, sometimes with FPJ for a double treat. The crowd patiently waited for her, only to leave shortly after she performed.

According to Aunor, it was a labor of love and she truly believed then that her friend Erap would be in a position to help the poor as president and that his campaign promise was no mere rhetoric.

That was then. The impeachment trial presented a totally different Joseph Estrada.

While details about her intimate relationship with Estrada, a former action star were immaterial, Aunor chose not to mince words in explaining her side during a news conference organized by Migrante before she went to the Edsa Shrine.

"You don't know the real Erap," she said.

Those close to her knew where she was coming from. Following Erap's proclamation as President in June 1998, she started seeing and hearing less and less of him. By the latter part of the year, she was well aware of the gap, which was further confirmed in December 1998 when Erap didn't watch her big concert at the Araneta Coliseum.

Aunor also had to deal with talks about some properties that Erap allegedly gave her. These included her house in Balete Drive in Quezon City, which is just around the corner from the controversial Boracay mansion of presidential mistress Laarni Enriquez. Another mansion rumored then to be for *Ate* Guy, which she quickly denied, later turned out to be meant for some other mistress.

There were also unconfirmed reports about some business interests, also from Erap, that an Erap crony was apparently managing for the actress.

But all these rumored properties did not compare with the Erap mansions and bank accounts uncovered during the aborted impeachment trial. And Aunor's friends can attest to the fact that she remained financially handicapped all this time.

"Her connection with Erap didn't even get her enough sponsors for her December concert," said a close friend. The only alternative left was to sell the concert abroad, which was the reason why Aunor was in the United States for most of last year.

It may well be that Aunor's presence at Edsa was as significant as the withdrawal by the military and the police of their support for Erap's presidency. After all, she remains to be *the* superstar.

Now, not much attention is focused on Aunor, what with the mad scramble for appointments in the new government. Once more, the superstar has retired to the shadows and away from the limelight, just like most of those who made People Power II happen. It is enough that she has made her contribution. It is enough that she had the chance to prove that her popularity still carried some weight.

Even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo benefited from Aunor's popularity when she campaigned for senator in 1992. She acknowledged this in an interview with a foreign correspondent, CNN's Mike Chinoy, following her oath-taking at the Edsa Shrine.

So, will there be more of Nora Aunor in politics now and less of her in show business after People Power II? Reports say she will run for governor of her home province, Camarines Sur.

Those who are excited about Aunor's entry into politics are banking on her legendary popularity, especially in her own province where the incumbent, Gov. Luis Villafuerte, is perceived to be formidable.

The contest in Camarines will be between traditional politics and the popularity of a Nora Aunor. One is backed by political experience, the other rides on the people's desire for political change. The former will depend on political patronage while the latter will have a campaign platform built on reform.

The politician has a well-oiled political machinery while the movie star only has her well-tested popularity and crowd-drawing appeal.

Only one can win in this contest. Hopefully, as in Edsa, it will be the people who will win in the end.

THOSE EYES, the Nora Aunor eyes, which gave life to several memorable movie characters, cast an adoring look at Erap during the 1998 presidential campaign. With them is steadfast Erap friend Fernando Poe Jr.

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4 THE YARDS 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30	5 VERTICAL LIMIT 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 8:55, 11:10	6 WHAT WOMEN WANT 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:10

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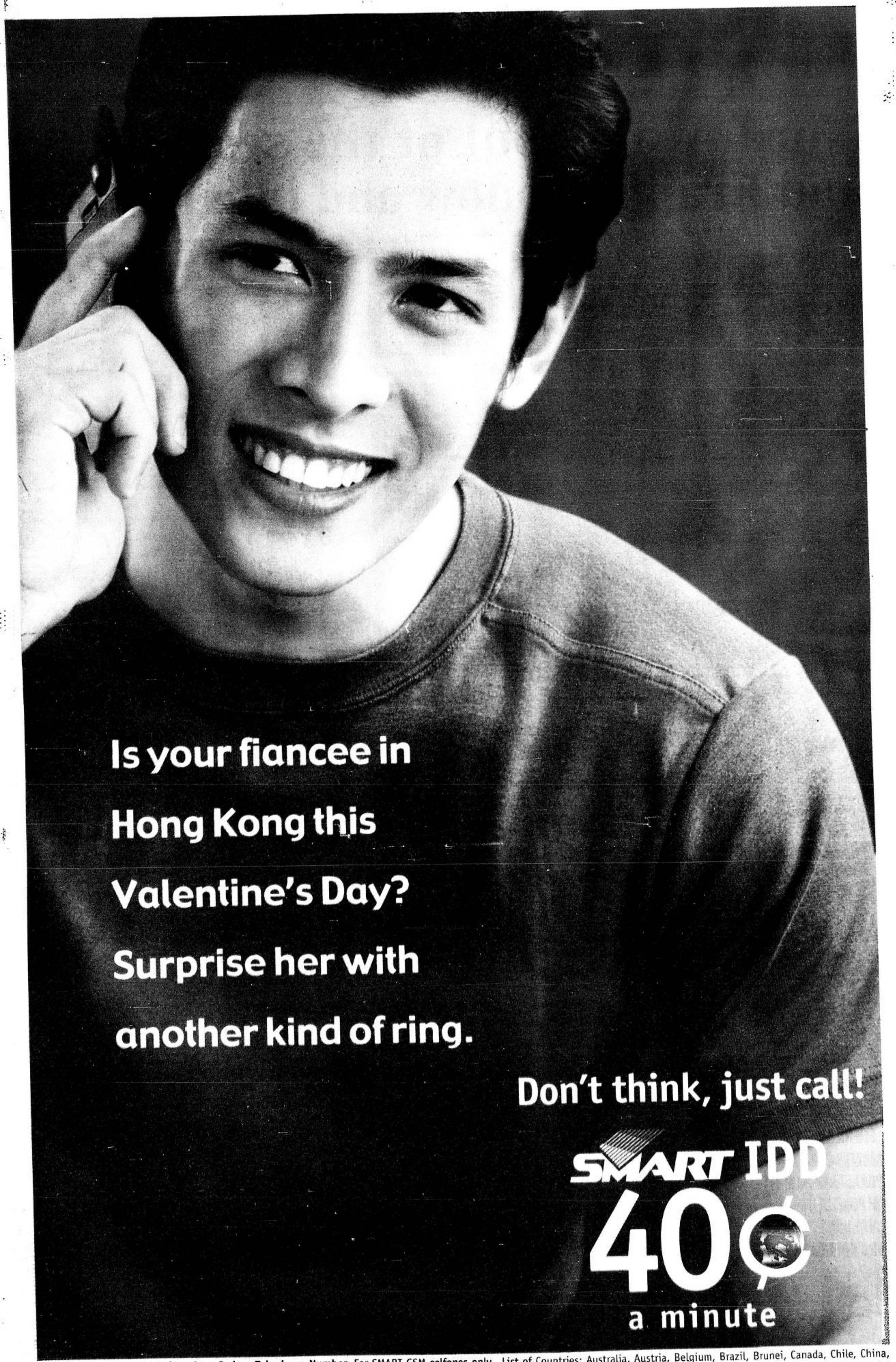

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Gov't vows to trim budget gap to ₱146B

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR. AND CLARISSA S. BATINO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday that she would work to cut by 35 percent the projected 2001 budget deficit of P225 billion to a more manageable P146 billion.

"This fiscal target necessarily entails hard work and sacrifice," which would call for reduced spending and even austerity measures, she told a business group in her first major economic policy speech since taking power in a military-backed popular revolt two weeks ago.

She said Malacañang has formed a core economic team that will focus initially on easing the government's worsening budget deficit.

She said four of her most senior economic aides would form the team to monitor "fiscal prudence" while at the same time ensuring that the economy did not go into reverse.

"We can and must do more with less," she added.

Ms Macapagal's budget deficit estimate of P225 billion was nearly double the initial projection of P120 billion.

Her target of P146 billion would bring it closer to last year's budget deficit of P136.1 billion.

During her first official meeting with the country's biggest business groups, the President also promised to hold more consultations with the private sector on charting the government's economic policy.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said he was appointed to be part of the special economic body, which will also include Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and National Economic and Development Authority chief Dante Canlas. Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura was not included in Ms Macapagal's special economic team nor was he present in yesterday's forum.

During their initial discussions, Roxas said the members have agreed to look into several measures to bridge the budget shortfall such as improving tax collections, containing smuggling activities, and cutting back on government expenses.

Failure to keep the deficit in check would lead to more government borrowings and higher interest rates that, in turn, could stall the country's economic recovery.

Roxas said the economic team would be expanded to include the departments of transportation and communications and of agriculture in order to tackle other crucial problems affecting businessmen.

At yesterday's gathering, businessmen gave Ms Macapagal a standing ovation following her speech wherein she vowed to consult the business sector before adopting policies affecting the economy.

Makati Business Club vice chair Ramon del Rosario Jr. said the President was like a "breath of fresh air." He said her vow to hold consultations should ensure transparency in her government.

Nestle Philippines Corp. president Juan B. Santos said: "She repeated a few fundamental things which I think would bring back a lot of optimism. The business community is pleased with what she had said today investors would come back."

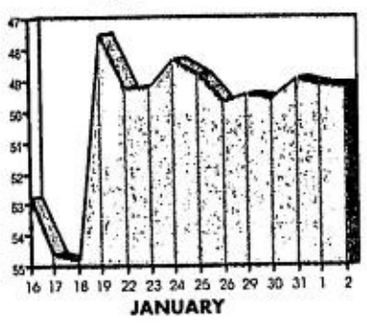
"She brings a lot of hope, a lot more hope than what we had before," said former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo.

Senen Matoto, president of the

GOV'T/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱49.12 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 2, 2001

¥115.18 = $1

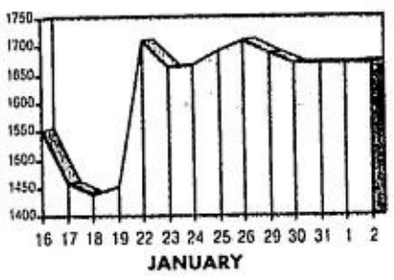
The US dollar was trading at 115.18 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 2, 2001

GOLD: $267.80/268.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 2, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares close mixed



SHARES closed mixed yesterday, with the benchmark index posting a marginal gain on demand for select blue chips led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 0.45 point to 1,669.58, after falling 1.1 percent Thursday.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES/ B2

Exports expanded 8.7% to $38B in 2000

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

DESPITE the political crisis that dampened investor interest last year, Philippine exports grew by 8.7 percent on the heels of strong receipts from electronics products.

According to a report from the National Statistics Office, total receipts from merchandise exports from January to December 2000 surged to $38 billion from $35 billion in 1999.

Total receipts for the month of December still managed to rise by 18.8 percent to $3.49 billion compared to $2.944 billion in 1999 despite the political crisis that gripped the country.

Electronics components, accounting for 59.2 percent of the total export receipts, led the top earners for the month of December with shipment value worth $2 billion or 15.6 percent higher than the same period in 1999.

Next to electronics, receipts from articles of apparel and clothing accessories ranked the second top performer in December with a 7.5-percent share and reported sales of $262.64 million, 19.3 percent higher than the $220.23 million a year ago.

The third top earner consisted of woodcraft and furniture with sales of $74.62 million, a 56.3-percent increase from $47.73 million the previous year.

Next to the United States, the other top trading partners in December were Japan and Singapore.

Accounting for 34.2 percent of the total exports, the United States bought goods worth $1.195 billion, up by 44.5 percent from $826.98 million a year earlier.

Japan was second with a 15.8-percent share of Philippine exports, also up by 34.4 percent to $550.72 million from $409.62 million a year ago. Singapore bought goods valued at $300.83 million or 8.6 percent of the total exports.

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Business as you swell

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IF YOUR mother-in-law is interested, I have absolute proof that big business is not asking much of the newly mounted administration of Madam Gloriaetta. Big business only wants Gloriaetta to solve a number of things in the short term. Oh, some minor things!

In business parlance, "short term" actually means "you have to do all of them all at once." And the "short-term" concerns for Gloriaetta were contained in a list of concerns given to her by the one and only Makati Business Club, the influential MBC.

As its name indicates, the MBC is not based in Pagudpod but in Makati. The club was in the forefront of the movement to force the resignation of now-deposed President Joseph Ejercito Estrada—aka the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

To the MBC, it seems business as usual now. That's why it recommended to Gloriaetta, for now, to give priority to the "budget deficit and revenue efforts," and also "governance and corruption," plus, of course, "garbage," and actually a lot more.

Sure, why not, right away, sir! And how do you want them—rare, medium or well done? No offense, sir, but do you think that such a list of "short-term" concerns for Gloriaetta was prepared by an idiot?

* * *

ON THE side, and it almost sounds like a hobby, Gloriaetta should also prosecute Wrist Band and certain members of his family, and it's just all in the name of healing with justice, freedom, love and different positions in the Kama Sutra. No, not that.

Anyway, based on the list, Gloriaetta must then find energy and refuse to die of exhaustion so that she can prosecute Wrist Band's various cronies, both known and unknown, those in hiding abroad, and those hiding in the MBC itself.

Not only that, according to the list, Gloriaetta may also want to pay attention to the—tantararan!—economy, peace and order, appointment of government officials, and investor confidence. That's all? And no perfecting cold fusion?

Your goldfish should probably be interested to know that, as they are listed by the MBC, the so-called short-term concerns of Gloriaetta cover the story of our lives. They're everything. The MBC thinks that, on her own, Gloriaetta cannot realize them.

I'm sorry to disappoint your Chihuahua, but me, I expected more from the MBC. It is made up of the top executives of the biggest businesses in the entire archipelago. They are supposed to be . . . well, "bright."

* * *

AT THE top of the MBC's list is the swelling budget deficit. It's such a big problem, admittedly, that it should take the initiative of the MBC to put it as the administration's concern numero uno. And Gloriaetta, the MBC proudly proclaimed, agreed.

Meaning, and I hope I'm wrong, the MBC is already exerting influence over the newly produced Gloriaetta administration. Let's say the MBC did not have the courage and wisdom to point out the budget deficit as Gloriaetta's top concern. What can happen?

Well, who knows, maybe the Gloriaetta administration will make, as its top concern, the declining dolphin population. From now on, whoever eats dolphins will be punished by listening to the press briefings of the presidential chief of staff, Renato Corona.

Anyway, the budget deficit swelled, swells and will swell for many reasons. It has been with us for the longest time. Not the least of the causes is, forgodsakes, business happens to be bad, and it has been bad since nobody can now care to remember when.

When business is bad, as the saying goes, business doesn't pay a lot of taxes. Yet in bad times, precisely, the government always wants to spend more to jumpstart the economy. You'd rather the deficit swell for business.

In other words, a budget deficit is not altogether bad. It is a tool, and it is often used by the government to perk up business itself. For an economic erectile dysfunction, it's nothing but a single dose of Viagra.

* * *

AND since when did the government in this country ever collect enough taxes to cover the budget? Since, let me see, well, since . . . It never happened before! Our government covers for such a deep problem by selling everything in sight, including the forest.

For one, there's a small portion of the population who are being taxed. For two, not all of them are paying the right amount of tax. Of course, everybody blames the BIR. But if there's corruption, as the saying goes, there's a corruptor and there's a corruptee.

Ours is actually called a "structural" problem. In English, this means we have to increase the number of taxpayers and increase the amount of taxes they must pay. "Widening the tax base" is how economists like to put it.

It makes sense to have a database for assets of every individual on which to base tax payments, something akin to the scheme proposed by the Department Finance during the first year of the Wrist Band administration.

Unfortunately, it is the same thing that was shot down as being pro-crony. Nobody even said the scheme would have flush out all tax evaders, including all those rich guys in big business. Not all of them are saints, you know.

PSE weighs options on seat conversion

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has given its member-brokers three options on how to determine trading rights once the local bourse has been converted into a stock corporation this Aug. 8.

In a press briefing, PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said the member-brokers would vote on the best option on or before their next membership meeting on March 3.

The election of seven PSE governors from the ranks of the member-brokers was also scheduled to take place that date. Market sources said concurrent PSE chair Felipe Yap would be running for reelection after a one-year term.

Majority of the 15-member PSE board of governors are non-brokers.

In determining the trading rights once the seats had been converted into shares, he said the brokers could choose in any of the following formula:

- Members will be required to hold on to a minimum number of shares to be able to maintain their trading rights;
- Members have the option to dispose of their shares and thus maintain the trading rights over the seats while the seats can be disposed of independently, and
- There will be no relation anymore between shares of stock and trading rights. Shares will be transferred to a holding company and trading is done by a separate subsidiary.

STRUCTURAL CHANGE

S&P backs sale of Equitable

THE POTENTIAL divestment of the major shareholders' stake in Equitable-PCI Bank could be the catalyst for wider structural change in the Philippine banking system.

American ratings firm Standard and Poor's said any sale of shares that resulted in a possible in-market merger, creating a domestic mega bank or the introduction of a foreign-based financial services organization, could quicken the pace of banking sector consolidation.

While S&P views sectoral consolidation as having a solidifying effect on credit quality in the longer term, it said it was not without its short-term risks, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would need to carefully manage the process from a regulatory standpoint to ensure a smooth transition to a banking system characterized by fewer, more financially sound units.

"The Philippine banking system is a natural candidate for consolidation, and the opportunity for an in-market merger with a strong counterparty and/or the introduction of a highly rated foreign bank would result in a meaningful change to the competitive status quo," said Jason Hill, associate director, financial services ratings of S&P.

"However, it is important that consolidation occurs at a temperate pace to ensure that stronger entities are the outcome, which in time is likely to create a more robust and secure banking system. With asset quality remaining poor following recent significant market volatility, which follows on the heels of a weakened banking system in the wake of the 1997 Asian crisis, consolidation should ideally be gradual rather than transformational," Hill added.

The creation of larger financial institutions will allow a lesser number of remaining institutions to leverage off increased economies of scale, improve product sales to a larger number of customers, rationalize cost bases, and improve financial strength through larger capital bases.

The increased participation of highly rated foreign financial institutions in individual Philippine banks would allow those domestic institutions to benefit from the foreign banks' global knowledge, systems, internal controls, and service standards, S&P said.

Piltel, creditors near deal

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

PILIPINO Telephone Corp., the debt-saddled subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., may implement its debt restructuring plan involving close to P40 billion in obligations by the second quarter of this year.

In a statement released yesterday, Piltel said 96 percent of the company's bondholders already approved the exchange offer presented to them in December 2000.

Piltel International Holdings Corp., a fully owned subsidiary of Piltel, issued the bonds worth $183 million in 1996.

"We can therefore proceed with meeting the regulatory and other requirements to effect the debt restructuring and I look forward to its implementation sometime in the second quarter of this year," Piltel president Napoleon Nazareno said in the statement.

The exchange bonds would be guaranteed and convertible into Piltel common shares. Upon the effectivity of the overall debt restructuring, the bonds would be replaced by floating-rate, guaranteed, amortized notes having a 15-year payment period and convertible preferred shares in Piltel to be exchanged for convertible preferred shares in PLDT.

"With the results of the exchange offer, the proposed restructuring of Piltel's obligations under the terms and conditions of the Master Restructuring Agreement is now supported by over 95 percent of Piltel's creditors based on the principal amounts owed," the statement added.

Piltel's creditors are divided into three groups: creditor banks, Marubeni Corp. of Japan and the bondholders. Each group's exposure is approximately a third of the total debts.

Marubeni's $279-million exposure to Piltel involved a turnkey telephone rollout project in Mindanao. After months of negotiations, the Japanese trading firm finally signed a memorandum of agreement to restructure the debt late last year.

Piltel signed its MRA with the banks involving some $332 million in early 2000. Under the MRA, half of the debt to banks will be converted into peso-denominated Piltel convertible preferred stock, which can later be converted into preferred stock in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Equitable PCI BANK

INVITATION TO BID

The ACQUIRED ASSETS DIVISION of Equitable PCIBank is inviting offers to purchase by the way of sealed bids, in cash and on an "as-is-where-is" basis, the following real estate properties:

TCT NO./AREA (in sqms.)/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PRICE
I. METRO MANILA		
1) 247229/280 m2/comm'l. vacant lot	Lot 7, Sub-blk. 11, Pres. Quirino cor. Leveriza, Malate, Manila	P 9,800,000
2) 39549-57/162.35 to 164.14 m2/res./condo.	Sta. Ana Villas, #2215 Pedro Gil St., Sta. Ana, Manila	From 4,545,800 to 4,595,920
3) 68969/61.62 m2/res. condo.	3/F Unit 316, Cityland Condominium 8-Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	2,156,700
4) 9919-R/287 m2/res. w/ impvts.	288 Santolan Road, West Crame, San Juan, Metro Manila	8,994,000
II. PROVINCIAL		
1) T-137698-99/33,109 & 10,000 m2/res./agri.	Bo. Iponan, Cagayan de Oro City	7,163,550
III. CHATTELS		
Surface Grinders, EDM CNC Machine, Horizontal Band Saw, Drill Grinder, Milling Machine, Grinding Machines, Optical Measurement Inspection System, Air Compressor, Wire Cut CNC Machine	Equitable PCI Bank, EPZA Branch, Rosario, Cavite	9,164,000

Complete description/specifications of the above properties, rules & regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available from the following officers:

All Properties & Chattels — MS. BERNIE G. PEÑAFIEL/AVP/MAR M. RIPA/AO/GISELLE P. ESPIRITU/AO/ KAREN U. RESARI/AO/TON-TON P. MALABUYO -Tel. Nos. 817-2822/840-7644/ 894-1910/840-7920

Bidding will be held on February 27, 2001 at 10:00 A.M., 11/F SAM Con. Rm., Equitable PCIBank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City for all items. Bidders deposit equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price in the form of cash or Manager's/Cashier's check together with the duly accomplished bid form must be enclosed in the sealed bid. All bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for submission of bids. All winning bids are subject to approval by the Bank's approving authority.

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank furnished the Exchange a copy of its amended SEC form 11-Q for the third quarter of year 2000. A copy of the form is available for reference at the PSE Center and PSE Plaza Libraries.

* * *

THE REDUCTION by 147,000 **ABS-CBN Holdings Corp.** PDRs as represented by PDR certificate Nos. 838, 837 and 840 from the listed PDRs shall take effect on Feb. 5. This brings the number of PDRs to a total of 267,480,100.

* * *

FRANCIS Lam resigned as president and director of **Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.** to devote more of his time to other business concerns. Li Hiu, director of **South Port Development Ltd.**, has been duly elected by the board to serve Lam's remaining term until August 2001.

* * *

JESUS Alcordo has requested the board of **East Asia Power Resources Corp.** to consider him as retired from the office of the president and CEO, and resigned as director effective Jan. 31. He has been appointed as president of **National Power Corp.**

* * *

BALABAC Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on March 30, 4 p.m., at the Turf Room, Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Benpres Holdings Corp.** confirmed the appointment of the following officers: Oscar Lopez, chair of the board and CEO; Manuel Lopez, vice chair of the board; Eugenio Lopez, treasurer, and Steve Psinakis, senior adviser.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. will hold a briefing on its 2000 full-year results on Feb. 2, 4 p.m., at the Executive Dining Room, SMC head office, Mandaluyong City.

* * *

THE BOARD of **San Miguel Corp.** accepted the resignation of Carlos Arellano and Federico Pascual as directors and in their place elected Vitalino Nañagas II and Winston Garcia.

* * *

ALSONS Consolidated Resources Inc. said it was not aware of any information that could have caused the decrease by 38.64 percent in the trading of its share price. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

Shares . . .

(From page B1)

Decliners led gainers 57 to 39, while 38 issues were unchanged.

Expectations of further cuts in key Philippine and US interest rates gave investors reason to accumulate select blue chips, said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

Last Thursday, the Bangko Sentral announced a cut in its policy rates by 0.50 percentage point, following a similar cut in key US rates Wednesday. Both US and Philippine monetary officials have indicated further rate cuts are possible in the coming months. *AP*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of February 2, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7.00	7	7	7	8,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	130.0	130	130	130	1,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70.00	70.5	69.5	70	426,300
China Banking Corp.	750.0	750	750	750	30
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	57.00	57	56.5	56.5	62,400
First E-Bank Corp.	2.00	2	2	2	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	236.0	236	232	234	41,300
Philippine National Bank	32.50	35.5	32.5	34.5	576,000
Phil. Savings Bank	29.00	30	29	30	20,900
Security Bank Corp.	26.50	26.5	26.5	26.5	35,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	32.00	32	32	32	5,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	116,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	.4000	.4	.39	.39	130,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1320	1340	1320	1340	7,490
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1120	1135	1120	1135	8,500
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	47.50	47.5	47.5	47.5	14,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.6500	.72	.65	.72	33,990,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.20	2.2	2.2	2.2	3,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	720.0	725	720	725	70
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0600	.0625	.055	.0575	20,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.4600	.46	.45	.45	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	4.20	4.3	4.2	4.3	25,000
Piltel	.6900	.71	.69	.69	480,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	920.0	930	920	925	178,010
Ivantage Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	20,000
Philweb.com Inc.	.0825	.0825	.0725	.075	541,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	54.00	54	52.5	52.5	17,300
Manila Electric Co. "B"	58.00	59	58	59	210,700
Petron Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.78	1.82	7,082,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.00	1	1	1	253,000
Int'l Container Term'l SV	1.36	1.36	1.28	1.3	5,553,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	.5200	.58	.52	.58	270,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	200,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	.1500	.15	.15	.15	330,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	17,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	.2200	.22	.22	.22	130,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.5300	.53	.52	.53	1,100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	.8100	.81	.8	.8	470,000
Union Cement Corp.	.7700	.82	.76	.81	1,860,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.30	2.3	2.3	2.3	30,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	278,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34.50	35	34	35	112,300
RFM Corp.	1.18	1.22	1.08	1.1	3,903,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	50.00	50	49.5	50	32,000
San Miguel Corp. "B"	62.50	63	62.5	63	363,500
Universal Robina Corp.	6.00	6	6	6	41,000
Vitarich Corp.	.5200	.52	.52	.52	70,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg "A"	.5500	.55	.55	.55	120,000
Ayala Corp.	8.30	8.3	8.1	8.1	3,929,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.60	1.6	1.56	1.56	340,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.25	1,700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.08	87,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.3200	.32	.32	.32	1,070,000
APC Group Inc.	.2000	.205	.2	.2	3,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0050	.005	.005	.005	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.60	2.6	2.6	2.6	30,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.00	2	2	2	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.00	3.05	3	3.05	1,493,000
Crown Equities Inc.	.2700	.27	.26	.26	2,180,000
Southeast Asian Cement	.2500	.26	.25	.26	180,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.5500	.58	.53	.53	5,280,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	1.80	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.20	1.22	1.18	1.18	1,043,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	23.50	23.5	23.25	23.25	62,200
Global Equities Inc.	.3500	.35	.35	.35	10,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	.2300	.23	.23	.23	40,000
Ionics Inc.	15.25	15.25	15	15.25	207,700
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.6	640,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.22	237,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. "B"	.0160	.016	.016	.016	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	.9500	.95	.92	.92	8,460,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	.3400	.34	.34	.34	840,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.6500	.67	.65	.66	2,720,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	.4200	.42	.4	.41	2,990,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	.3400	.34	.33	.34	2,210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	.6800	.68	.67	.67	100,000
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.30	2.3	2.3	2.3	1,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	70,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	5,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6 50	6.5	6.5	6.5	2,000
Music Corp.	3.20	3.2	3	3.4	793,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	.7000	.7	.64	.64	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.1500	.15	.145	.145	3,220,000
Pryce Corp.	.5100	.51	.51	.51	60,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber A	2.50	3	2.5	3	32,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber B	5.60	5.6	5.6	5.6	1,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	1.00	1	1	1	1,010,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.25	11.75	11.25	11.75	350,500
Stenlel Manufacturing	.5900	.59	.58	.58	110,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.6900	.69	.67	.67	2,220,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.7000	.72	.65	.65	4,680,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.6000	.6	.6	.6	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	48.00	48	48	48	71,300
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.14	289,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	535.0	535	535	535	400
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.40	3.4	3.4	3.4	3,000
Globe Tel. "A"-Warrants	530.0	530	530	530	100
Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR)	750.0	750	750	750	2,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.75	11.75	11	11	55,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	.0036	.0036	.0036	.0036	123,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.20	7.2	7.2	7.2	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.70	6.7	6.5	6.6	13,234,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	.4100	.41	.4	.4	50,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	.4200	.43	.41	.41	1,340,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.3500	.35	.34	.35	2,910,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.4500	.45	.43	.44	17,910,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.55	2.6	2.5	2.55	5,524,000
Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	.0500	.05	.05	.05	500,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	.2000	.2	.2	.2	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.4500	.45	.43	.43	550,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.10	2.12	2.1	2.1	375,000
SM Development Corp.	.9000	.9	.9	.9	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.00	7	6.9	7	4,415,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	.1350	.135	.115	.115	4,350,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	.0070	.007	.007	.007	5,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	.0070	.007	.007	.007	6,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	10,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	4.00	4	4	4	22,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "A"	.0180	.018	.018	.018	1,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "B"	.0190	.019	.019	.019	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. "B"	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	28,000,000
Omico Corp.	.0046	.0046	.0046	.0046	85,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	.0200	.02	.019	.019	2,300,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	.2400	.24	.24	.24	200,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	.1900	.19	.19	.19	90,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0310	.031	.029	.029	8,400,000
Interport Res.	.0070	.007	.007	.007	15,000,000
Interport Res. "B"	.0080	.008	.008	.008	5,000,000
Pacifica	.0190	.019	.018	.018	16,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	.1050	.105	.105	.105	200,000

CURRENCIES

Feb. 2, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.064736	1.000000	49.1500
Japan	Yen	0.009212	0.008652	0.4252
United Kingdom	Pound	1.573786	1.478100	72.6486
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136527	0.128226	6.3023
Switzerland	Franc	0.652651	0.612970	30.1275
Canada	Dollar	0.712961	0.669613	32.9115
Singapore	Dollar	0.612974	0.575705	28.2959
Australia	Dollar	0.590930	0.555001	27.2783
Bahrain	Dinar	2.824384	2.652661	130.3783
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.283937	0.266674	13.1070
Brunei	Dollar	0.609116	0.572082	28.1178
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000105	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.025201	0.023669	1.1633
UAE	Dirham	0.289898	0.272272	13.3822
Korea	Won	0.000848	0.000796	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.939200	46.1617
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.480205	23.6021
France	Franc	0.152450	0.143180	7.0373
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.426190	20.9472
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.068254	3.3547
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.023282	1.1443
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000485	0.0238
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.157962	7.7638
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004685	0.2303
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005645	0.2775
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.023282	1.1443
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.192538	58.6132

GOVERNMENT REVIEW

BSP defers decision on PNB rehab plan

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said it had put on hold the final approval of Philippine National Bank's rehabilitation plan after the Macapagal administration bared plans to review the package.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he would give Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo a chance to review the rehabilitation package following his statement that the government would rescind deals that will be found disadvantageous to the state, including that of PNB.

The central bank last week approved in principle the rehabilitation plan for PNB.

"Since the new finance chief is also chair of PDIC (Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.), which is an integral part of the rehabilitation program, and since the government remains a shareholder of the bank, we will give Secretary Romulo a chance to review it," the BSP governor said.

Romulo earlier said the new government was prepared to rescind the agreements involving the P25-billion loan extended to PNB by the BSP and PDIC under the previous administration if they were found to be sealed under questionable terms.

Buenaventura explained that as a shareholder, the national government must be comfortable with whatever rehabilitation plan is adopted. "Whatever the outcome is, the bank's viability must be achieved," he said.

The BSP and PNB were about to start determining the details of the plan, particularly on which portion of the BSP's P15-billion emergency loan to PNB will be paid in cash.

But with Romulo raising concerns on the terms of the loan agreements, including a possible dacion en pago, the settlement mode of the PNB loan might be changed.

The P25-billion emergency loan—P15 billion from the BSP and P10 billion from PDIC— was extended to PNB on Oct. 6 when the country's fifth largest lender suffered from liquidity problems.

PNB is more than 70-percent owned and controlled by Lucio Tan, said to be one of the biggest campaign contributors of former President Estrada. Tan's presence in PNB led some quarters to believe that the loan was a crony deal.

PNB is the fifth largest bank in terms of assets worth P105 billion. However, its non-performing loan ratio of 40 percent (to total loan portfolio) is one of the highest in the industry.

The emergency loan was granted to PNB almost at the same time that Tan pumped into PNB some P10 billion.

The BSP said PNB was given the loan because it was "too big to fail" and its liquidity problems would have caused a systemic problem for the banking sector.

"We are just interested in rehabilitating the bank to ensure it does not present systemic risks," Buenaventura said.

Former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia had referred to the loan as a "sweetheart deal" specially if the BSP would let PNB pay more than half of its debts through a payment-in-kind arrangement.

At the same time, the PNB would settle its P10-billion obligation with state-owned insurer PDIC by transferring government liabilities to PDIC worth about P9 billion.

These liabilities include a P5-billion loan to the Bureau of Customs and a P4.5-billion loan of a Philippine sugar trading company owned to PNB during the time of Marcos.

Honda sees 20% sales growth

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ALL-NEW Civic: 21st century's first model

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc. expects its sales to zoom by 20 percent this year as its all-new Civic firms up the company's grip on the passenger car market.

HCPI president and general manager Kenji Otaka said the company's sales were expected to hit 15,000 units this year from 12,500 units a year ago.

This is twice the 10-percent sales growth projected by HCPI for the industry this year. Otaka expects the Civic to account for more than half of the company's projected car sales this year.

The new Civic is expected to attract new car buyers not only because it is faster, roomier, and sleeker but also because HCPI pegged its prices for Civic at 2000 prices.

"The industry needs something new, something that would create a stir and Honda is ready to fill the void," Otaka said.

Although total industry sales rose 12.8 percent to 83,949 units last year from 74,414 units in 1999, Otaka noted that this was only half of what the industry sold in 1999.

Bearing the brunt of slack sales was the passenger car segment which shrunk 20 percent leaving its overall share at 35 percent.

Last year, HCPI sold 5,456 Civics making it the best-selling passenger car model for the period. Combined with the low-end City models (3,391 units), mid-range sedan model Accord (610) and the HRV 1.6 (163), HCPI cornered 33.4 percent of the passenger car market last year.

HCPI is rumored to be planning to introduce a new CRV model this year but officials declined to comment. The CRV is the leading compact sport utility vehicle in the market with total sales of 2,894 last year.

HCPI launched yesterday the all-new Civic, which boasts of technologically advanced engine and excellent fuel economy.

The all-new Civic is available in three variants: 1.5 Lxi, manual and automatic transmission; 1.6 VTi, also in manual and automatic transmission, and the 1.6 VTi-S, automatic. They sell at a range of P660,000 to P804, 000.

British firm invests $20M in Subic

SUBIC Bay Freeport—Mivan Subic Inc., a British firm engaged in modern construction technology, is investing $20 million to build medium-rise condominiums in a prime property here.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito C. Payumo, along with Mivan Subic president John Kelly, led the groundbreaking ceremonies for the construction of six condominiums (211 single- to three-bedroom units) dubbed as Subic Heights. The project will be built on an 18,000-square-meter land at the Upper Mau Camp area of the Freeport.

Payumo said foreign investments continued to pour into the Subic Freeport because of its strategic location in the Asia Pacific region.

Construction of the six buildings, complete with first-class amenities such as swimming pool and security system, will be completed in 18 months.

Kelly said the project's excellent site and secured environment would be the project's selling points.

"What we will try to do is to set up a village atmosphere that will blend to the pristine environment around the Freeport area," Kelly said.

Eamonn Stanton, first secretary for trade and exports of the British Embassy here, expressed his support to the Freeport by promising to bring in more British investments.

Stanton, who was also at the groundbreaking ceremonies, said the Embassy would help promote Subic Freeport because of the immense and diverse opportunities it offers. "We believe in this place and the leadership that runs it," Stanton professed.

Gov't vows . . .

(From page B1)

Investment Houses Association of the Philippines and president of BPI Capital, said he was pleased with Ms Macapagal's pronouncements that she would hold dialogues and keep her communication lines with the business community open.

The economy soured last year amid a corruption scandal that led to the impeachment of Ms Macapagal's predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

A Senate trial to hear corruption charges against Estrada was suspended abruptly last month, triggering a popular backlash which led to his downfall.

Budget Secretary Alberto Romulo earlier said the Estrada administration had left behind at least P70 billion in unpaid bills.

He said the budget gap last year should have correctly reflected the debts at P206.1 billion instead of just P136.1 billion.

But a finance official explained that these obligations could be postponed as he stressed that the Ramos administration also left behind payables of P160 billion.

Still, Romulo said he was hoping to achieve a balanced budget by 2004, a year before the term of President Macapagal ends. "If we would have real economic growth and there is a boom then perhaps by 2004 we would have a balanced budget," he said.

With a report from AFP

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Liquidation of ASB Group sought

By Elena R. Torrijos

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to order the immediate liquidation of the ASB Group of Companies, owned by property developer Luke Roxas.

In documents filed with the SEC early this week, UCPB, one of the biggest creditors of the group, urged the SEC to dismiss outright the proposed ASB Group rehabilitation plan since the financial statements that were used as its basis did not comply with generally accepted accounting principles.

UCPB claimed that all secured creditors of ASB rejected particularly a provision in the plan waiving all penalties when implementing dacion en pago or payment-in-kind arrangements.

The ASB Group had admitted that its financial statements did not conform to the GAAP and were prepared for the purpose of securing the SEC's approval of the rehabilitation plan.

"The honorable panel cannot be expected to approve a rehabilitation plan based on customized financial statements. The petitioners' refusal to apply GAAP and, instead, conveniently invent their own system of accounting is a clear indication of their intent to manipulate the financial statements in order to reflect its capability to be rehabilitated," UCPB said.

The bank further argued that the deliberate failure of ASB to conform to the GAAP "clearly constitutes fraud, which is a ground for the dismissal of the plan under Section 4-22 of the Rules on Corporate Recovery."

Among the several GAAP violations committed by the ASB Group in its consolidated balance sheet was the inclusion of incomplete projects in its list of assets worth about P13 billion and the off-setting of P5.3 billion in receivables.

ASB has been granted debt relief by the SEC on some P12 billion in liabilities, of which some P5 billion represent debts to banks and P3.9 billion were debts to 700 individual unsecured creditors.

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H-H-M-S MALE 7314018

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VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

WIND-OFF 7523149 M/F Mkti

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Manhunt Massage 9162650

M/VIP/24hr09173849954

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CLOSED ALUM VAN 8212970

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Experience using JavaScript, CSS, VBScript, HTML, SSI, CGI scripting in ASP, php, encryption practices including SSL, and FTP.
Experience creating MS SQL databases.
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PLEASE DO NOT APPLY MORE THAN ONCE

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Bidding will be held every Wednesday of the week starting February 7, 2001 at 10:00 A.M. 11/F Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue, Makati City. (Inclusive dates: February 14, 21, & 28, 2001)

For provincial based motor vehicles (Iloilo, Cebu, Gen. Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Bacolod), bidding will be held at their respective area offices at 10:00 A.M. every Wednesday starting February 7, 2001.

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C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. 602 JP Rizal St. Makati City will hold an Auction Sale on • February 10, 2001 • at 9:00 AM including all items pawned up to Sept. 2000
V.Zamora Jr.Lic. Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

C.Y.Lopez Pawnshop, Inc. Real St., Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an AUCTION SALE on Feb. 10, 2001 at 9:00 A.M. Including all items pawned up to August and September
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **JOSE S. PLANES JR.** has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 126; Page. 26; Book No. 1 Before Notary Public Arnulfo Q. Canivel at Pasay City **(PDI-Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 2001)**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **CONCORDIA P. PORTACIO** has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 120; Page. 24; Book. No. 1 Before Notary Public Arnulfo Q. Canivel at Pasay City **(PDI-Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 2001)**

The intestate estates of the deceased spouses **NEMESIO F. ANGCO** and **CENONA FIGUEROA-ANGCO** who died on 08 June 2000 and 17 August 1998, respectively, have been extrajudicially settled through a Deed of extra-judicial settlement executed by their heirs on 13 November 2000, which document is denominated as Doc. 194; Page. 40; Book. 1; Series of 2000 of Notary Public Glenda Isabel L. Blason (PDI-1/27, 2/3, 10, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District III
Ninoy Aquino International Airport

SECOND NOTICE

In the forthcoming public auction sale of a forfeited shipment consisting of rare and expensive assorted pieces of jewelry of considerable quantity and value, the Bureau of Customs needs the assistance of a firm, entity, or organization to act as its CONSULTANT to provide the requisite knowledge and expertise on:

1. Gem, precious stone, and jewelry appraisal
2. Cataloguing and publication
3. Advertisement and promotion of the activity designed to attract foreign/international buyers
4. Preparation for, and actual conduct of, the auction sale proper
5. Release and delivery of items/articles sold, including, but not limited to, the following:
   a. Inspection
   b. Inventory taking prior to delivery
   c. Proper packaging
   d. Observance of international jewelry trade practices and documentation

Interested parties are invited to write and present their proposals and CREDENTIALS to Atty. TOMAS ALCID/Atty. TEODORO CINCO, Office of the Deputy Collector for Operations, Room 101, Ground Floor, NAIA Customs Building, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, (infront of Mercure Hotel) on or before February 28, 2001.

The Bureau of Customs reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without giving any reason, waive any formality, and enter into an agreement with the party whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC, is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Note: Consultancy fee matters, allowed within the limits provided for by the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, will be discussed and negotiated after qualification.)

(Sgd.) **CELSO P. TEMPLO**
District Collector

(PDI – Feb. 3, 2001)

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS
SPC DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will sell armored trucks and scrap materials. Sealed bids must be received by the Committee not later than 10:00 AM on **February 13, 2001** at Room 504, 5th Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interested parties may inspect the armored trucks/scrap materials during regular working days from 9:00 to 11:00 AM and 1:00 to 2:30 PM at the BSP Security Plant Complex on or before **February 12, 2001**.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer, Mrs. Lucilia D. Coquia, Department of General Services, Room 305, 3rd Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Tel. No. 926-3464.

(Sgd.) **NESTOR B. SALANIO**
Chairman

(PDI – Feb. 3, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT SPECIAL RATES AND/OR ECONOMIC RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ("ERAP-IV") RATES FOR POWER INTENSIVE AND DISTRESSED INDUSTRIES (PIDI'S) IN THE LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO GRIDS, WITH PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERB CASE NO. 2001-05

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NAPOCOR)
Applicant.
x ---------- x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) on January 16, 2001 of an application for the authority to adopt and implement special rates and/or economic recovery assistance program ("ERAP-IV") rates for power intensive and distressed industries (PIDIs) in the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids by providing further discount of P0.30/kWh for energy consumption above New Customer Baseline Load (NCBL).

The Board has set the said application for hearing on February 19 and 20, 2001 at nine o'clock (9:00 AM) in the morning at the ERB Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of initial hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Board their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings may request that before the date of initial hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with this Board during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable MELINDA L. OCAMPO, Chairman and Honorables ALBERTO D. DOSAYLA, OSCAR E. ALA, NICOMEDES B. DEYNATA and MARIETTA U. LARRACAS, Members, Energy Regulatory Board this 23rd day of January, 2001 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **ARNIDO O. INUMERABLE**
Executive Director

(PDI – Feb. 3 & 4, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
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   1.1 Currently registered with DTI (BTRCP)
   1.2 With at least five (5) years experience
   1.3 SSS members of good standing
   This is a re-publication.
2. Bidders for the supply, installation and commissioning of the following medical equipment at the SSS Main Building:
   2.1 One (1) unit Automatic X-ray Processor
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   Prospective bidders should be exclusive/authorized dealer of well known brand of the above medical equipment, with at least three (3) years in existence in the Philippines and has adequate technical and support facilities for after sales service.
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3. Bidders for 3,000 rolls Microfilm, 16mm x 1,000 ft.
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List of pre-qualification requirements for items 1 to 4 must be obtained from the PBAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers 922-2991 and 920-6401 local 2379/2380. Below are the deadlines of submission of pre-qualification documents at the same address.

Item No.	Deadline
Item #1	February 19, 2001
Item #2	February 20, 2001
Item #3	February 21, 2001
Item #4	February 22, 2001

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the System. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the System guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **HORACIO T. TEMPLO**
Executive Vice-President
& Chairman, Pre-qualification,
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A fifth of US economy slips into recession

NEW YORK—US manufacturing activity withered for a sixth straight month in January, signaling one-fifth of the economy had slipped into recession and that overall growth may have stalled, a survey showed on Thursday.

The report, delivered a day after the Federal Reserve slashed rates by a half-point for the second time in less than a month, overshadowed earlier figures showing a rise in both personal spending and construction spending in December, and a jump in unemployment claims during the past week.

The National Association of Purchasing Management said its January manufacturing index slid from 44.3 in December to 41.2—its lowest level since March 1991, at the tail end of the last recession. Economists had expected a 43.6 reading.

"This has confirmed the feeling that the manufacturing sector is in recession (and) the impression the manufacturing sector is in free-fall," said Anthony Karydakis, a senior financial economist at Banc One Capital Markets in Chicago.

Manufacturers have been struggling to cope with high energy costs, weakening export sales and sluggish consumer demand for big-ticket items as well as an overhang of inventories built up when the economy was booming in the first half of 2000.

Financial markets, still digesting the Fed's half-point rate cut, were little jostled by the news as further manufacturing weakness was widely expected. US Treasury bonds extended an earlier rally while major stock indices were mixed. The dollar was little changed against major currencies.

NAPM chair Norbert Ore said the January manufacturing index correlated to an overall economic contraction of 0.6 percent at an annualized pace, meaning that last month the broader economy failed to grow for the first time in 117 months or nearly 10 years.

In another ominous sign for America's industrial sector in the months ahead, the NAPM new orders index, a gauge of production to come, tumbled from 42.5 in December to 37.8—its lowest since January 1991. The NAPM production index, meanwhile, plunged to its lowest point since May 1982.

"Obviously, the economy is in trouble—the Fed has lowered rates dramatically—but I wouldn't generalize from the state of the manufacturing sector that the overall economy is in the same dismal state," said Banc One's Karydakis.

Consumer spending rose by 0.3 percent in December, on trend, but the climb was driven largely by costlier services as Americans paid more for electricity and natural gas, the Commerce Department said. *Reuters*

Capital flows fell in 1999

WASHINGTON—The overall flow of capital to developing countries declined in 1999, although foreign direct investment increased, the World Bank reported Thursday.

Overall flows reached $261.99 billion in 1999 compared with an annual average of $291.515 billion in 1994 to 1998, the bank said in a preliminary report entitled Global Development Finance 2001.

Long-term private flows to developing countries rose from an average of $167 billion in 1994 to 1998 to $216 billion, with five countries accounting for 56 percent of the total.

Foreign direct investment in developing country businesses represented nearly 85 percent of total private flows in 1999, or $181.858 billion. Portfolio investments, the purchase of shares in a firm, increased 3.7 percent to $34.456 billion.

Five emerging market countries, China, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and South Korea, received 64 percent of foreign direct investment, up from 57 percent in 1998.

Debt-incurring flows of capital to developing and emerging countries fell to $25.446 billion in 1999, down 42 percent compared with 1994 to 1998.

Net inflows on bank lending were negative, reflecting accelerated loan repayments from borrowers in East Asia. Bank inflows were a positive $35.1 billion in the 1994 to 1998 period.

Official capital flows to developing countries increased 2.5 percent in 1999 to $46.738 billion.

China absorbed $42.67 billion of total capital flows in 1999, a 20-percent decline from 1994 to 1998, followed by Argentina, $32.691 billion, Mexico, $25.106 billion, Brazil, $23.515 billion and South Korea, $9.758 billion. *AFP*

Bayer acquires herbicide

BASEL, Switzerland—Bayer AG, Europe's third biggest chemical maker, will buy Syngenta's sulcotrione herbicide, called Mikado, for $106 million to bolster its expansion in agricultural products.

The European Commission required Syngenta to sell the herbicide when it approved Syngenta's formation last year, the company said in a faxed statement.

Syngenta, the world's largest maker of farm chemicals, was created when the agriculture units of Novartis AG and AstraZeneca Plc were spun off and merged.

The purchase will help Bayer expand its presence in the $30-million farm chemicals market.

Bayer purchased the Flint fungicide business from Syngenta for $800 million last year.

"The herbicide franchise of Bayer is not that strong currently so it seems to be a good fit in their portfolio," said Michael Vara, an analyst at Commerzbank in Frankfurt who recommends buying Bayer shares. *Bloomberg*

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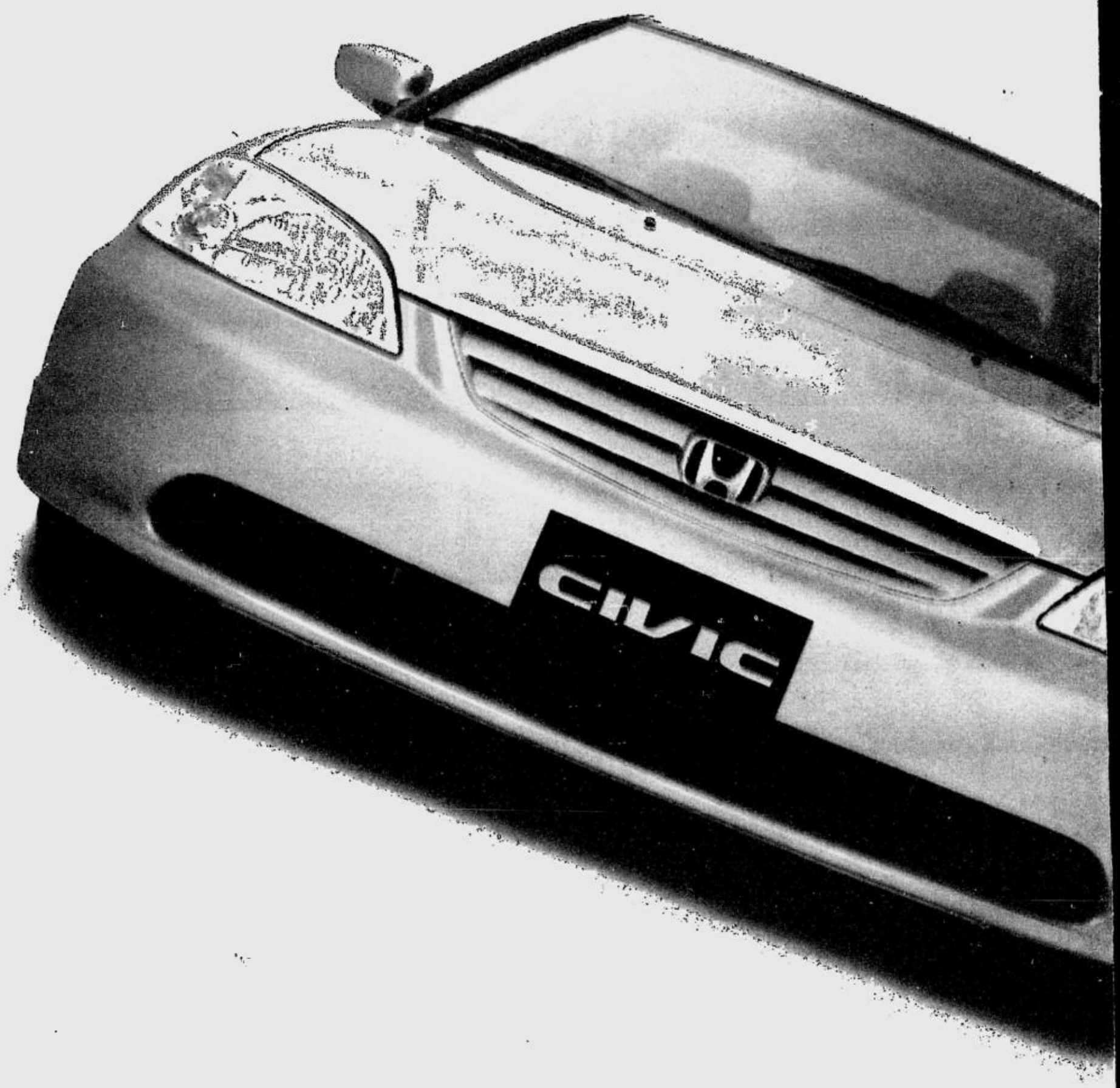

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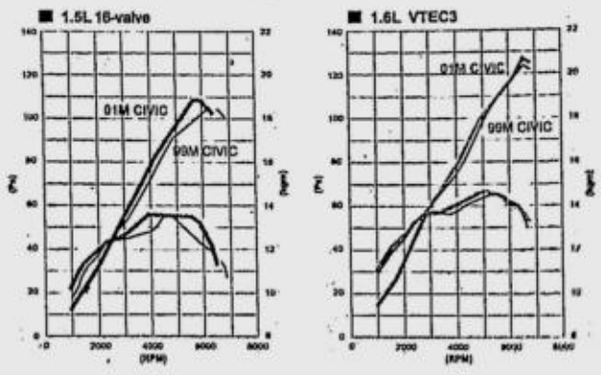

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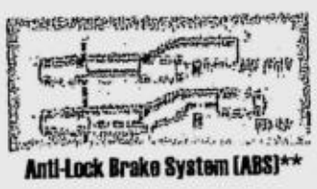
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IMF predicts slower growth in South Korea

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund said Thursday growth in South Korea would likely slow this year to about half of the 9.5-percent growth estimated for 2000, making vitally needed reforms even more important.

In an annual assessment, the Washington-based lender said South Korea's corporate and financial sectors were "imposing an increasing drag on the economy," making it critical that reforms be accelerated and deepened to ensure sustainable, strong, medium-term growth.

While the fund praised South Korea for an impressive economic performance since it fell victim to the Asian financial crisis in late 1997, it noted that slowing economies elsewhere and higher oil prices dampened prospects, as did a weakening in domestic confidence. Nevertheless, the report said the nation had "significant upside potential waiting to be harnessed" if it can tackle much-needed reforms.

Output had already bounced back above the level of December 1997, when the country, sucked into a deep recession by the financial crisis, turned to the IMF for a massive $21-billion loan, part of a larger $58-billion bailout.

Since then, thanks to sizzling growth of 10.7 percent in 1999 and 9.5 percent last year, the country has paid back much of the cash it owes the IMF and built a sizable current account surplus and international reserves.

The IMF said it expected its loan would be paid back in full by August. That impressive performance was helped by the budget returning to surplus in 2000, four years ahead of schedule.

Several IMF directors suggested that, in light of weaker growth prospects, the "outlook might justify a temporary loosening in monetary policy." It added that while greater flexibility had been achieved in foreign exchange flexibility, intervention "should be limited to instances where trading is exceptionally disorderly."

When the crisis struck in 1997, IMF officials said opaque bookkeeping had masked the fact that the country was just days away from default. And while much improvement had been made since then on that front, the IMF reiterated its mantra that corporate sector weakness undermined financial sector stability and so required urgent reform.

Among suggestions the IMF assessment offered were to place more reliance on court supervision of insolvent companies to accelerate restructuring and the introduction of prepackaged bankruptcies.

The fund said the recent decline in domestic and foreign confidence in South Korea had been due largely to a lack of tangible results in corporate and financial sector restructuring, adding even more need for rapid action. *Reuters*

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Japan to tackle debt woe

TOKYO—Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said yesterday he would like to start discussing how to tackle Japan's bulging debt, given increasing tax revenues and support from a corporate recovery for the fragile economy.

Asked if his policy speech to parliament this week suggested he was a step closer to tackling Japan's runaway debt, the highest of any industrialized nation, Miyazawa said, "Maybe I have the feeling that you describe.

"We were able to revise our estimate of tax revenues upward. We may start facing in that direction."

In a policy speech to parliament on Wednesday, Miyazawa called Japan's fiscal conditions "extremely severe." He said, "For our nation to achieve stable development from now on, fiscal reform is the issue that will need to be tackled."

Outstanding debts of central and local governments are on track to reach ¥666 trillion ($5,761 billion) in the fiscal year ending in March 2002.

Miyazawa told a regular news conference on Friday that the government's Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy would come up with macroeconomic models as a tool to find ways to deal with the swelling debt, but it would take around six months to finish compiling such models.

"The economy has not fully achieved a private demand-led recovery, but it will take time for the models to be compiled, so I think it's okay to start our discussions (on fiscal reform)." *Reuters*

IMF tells Canada to be wary

TORONTO—The International Monetary Fund said Thursday that Canada was well placed to cope with a slowing US economy but told its central bank to be ready to cut interest rates if the US slowdown became a dive.

In its annual staff assessment of the Canadian economy, the global lender said Canada's central bank had to respond firmly to signs of a slowdown, but there was no need to "respond to every shock" from the United States.

"The strong policy framework in place has positioned the real and financial economy to cope with any major new economic shock, including a slowdown in US growth," it said.

It added: "While there is no need for policies to respond to every shock emanating from the United States, monetary policy would need to be eased in the event of a substantial US economic slowdown."

The Bank of Canada shaved 25 basis points off its key bank rate last month, half the size of the rate cut announced previously by the US Federal Reserve. The Fed has since cut US rates by another half point, but Canada has not matched this move.

The bank will provide details on its monetary policy outlook next week, but its next scheduled announcement on interest rates is not due until its regular meeting on March 6. *Reuters*

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"My soul finds rest in God alone; From Him comes my salvation."
Psalm 62:2

FORTUNATA JOCSON PANTIG

of Angeles City and Victorville, California

*Peacefully joined our Lord and her late husband **Jacinto T. Pantig** on January 28, 2001 at the age of 83.*

Her bereaved children and their spouses **Liberata**, **Wilfredo** and **Des**, **Edilberto** and **Elvie**, **Gil** and **Fe**, **Carmelita** and **Orlando**, and **Remedios**; grandchildren **Allen**, **Jeanette**, **Karen** and **Glenn**, **Marizel**, **Myrah** and **Melanie**, **Neil** and **Tracy**; sisters, relatives, friends and all those whose lives she touched request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will arrive on February 3, 2001 and will lie in state at the mortuary of St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati City from February 4 to 6, 2001.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 6, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park after the 8:30 AM Mass.

HECTOR GOMEZ PALILEO

of Pagsanjan, Laguna, August 31, 1923 – February 1, 2001 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **Edith**; his children **Mae**, **Bong** and **Daisy**, **Rene** and **Kit**, **Patsy** and **Det-Det**; his grandchildren **Mika** and **Makki**, **Jr** and **Joy**; brothers, sister, in-laws, nephews & nieces request the kind readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Cremation will be on February 7, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Magallanes Church.

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"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

JOSEFA HERNANDEZ LIM

Of San Pascual, Batangas

Passed away in the grace of our Lord on February 2, 2001 at the age of 68.

She is survived by her beloved husband **PONCIANO**; children **BABY** and **DEO**, **EDMUND**, **JOVI** and **ALBERT**, **MANNY** and **OMMII**; grandchildren **PATRICK**, **INGGAY** and **MIGO**, **DJ** and **JAYCO**; sister **MARGARITA**; nephews and nieces and other relatives.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at San Antonio, San Pascual, Batangas.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 4, 2001 at the Bauan Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 PM Mass.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

JOSE "LITO" SANGLAP VELMONTE JR.

who joined his Creator on January 21, 2001

wish to convey our sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered Masses and prayers, spiritual bouquets, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, extended support, visited and kept vigil, attended the services and funeral rites, and those who in countless ways, condoled, helped and comforted us in the hour of our deepest sorrow.

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of

Columbian Philippines, Inc.

announce with deep sorrow the demise of their former President

PETER FLINT METCALF

who joined his Creator on January 26, 2001 in Venice, Florida, U.S.A.

He is survived by his loving children **Toby** and **Stacey**.

Memorial services will be held at Saint James Church on Genesee Street, Skaneateles, New York, U.S.A. on February 3, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.

"To be absent from the body is to be present in the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

ZOSIMO PIO ROA y RABAGO "IMOK"

of
Cebu City and Cagayan de Oro City

Born : September 5, 1952
Died : January 29, 2001

Beloved son of **Pio I. Roa** (†) and **Jacinta Lydia Rabago** (†) and stepson of **Flora Borromeo** (†).
A loving brother to **Nanette**, **Ruby** and **Teddy** (†)
A wonderful uncle to **Patrick** and **Kristine**, **John**, **Nicole**, **Jopi** and **Flora**
Papa Imok to **Partricia** and **Jared**

A thoughtful, kind, generous and selfless friend to all those who know him and whose lives he touched. A proud member of the Roa Clan. Renaissance man.

Imok's mortal remains lie at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City.

His body will arrive in Cagayan de Oro City on February 2, 2001 and will lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes (Cagayan de Oro).

Interment will be on Sunday, February 4, 2001 at Greenhills Memorial Park after the 9:00 AM Funeral Mass at the Greenhills Chapel.

Our Dearly Beloved Mama

HERMINDA LAGUDA MALUNDA

(1915 – 2001)

Peacefully joined her Creator on January 30, 2001

Her bereaved children **Cicero** and **Antoinette**, **Zenia** and **Delfin**, **Gracia** and **Conrado**; grandchildren **Sonny Boy**, **Nino**, **Dodi** and **Gingging**, **Rady** and **Lalaine**, **Mimi** and **Benjie**, **An-An** and **Delbert**, **Yan-Yan** and **Mark**, **Boots**, **Russel** and **Gino**; great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at residence No. 51-A R. Mapa St., Tabucan, Mandurriao, Iloilo City.

Interment will be at Christ the King Memorial Park on Saturday, February 10, 2001 after 2:00 p.m. Mass at Christ the King Chapel, Bo. Ungca, District of Jaro, Iloilo City.

In Memoriam

On the **First Death Anniversary**

MA. TERESA "Tere" ABACAN LONGBOAN

on the 3rd of February 2001

We are very grateful to all who keep our beloved *Tere* in their memory and continue to pray for her.
Ma, your memory lingers in our heart forever.

Noel, Justin and Jaja

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Cor. 4:14

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Department of Education, Culture, and Sports
Third Elementary Education Project

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: January 29, 2001
Loan No.: 4108-PH
IFB No.: PISU-CO/192001

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS)) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and delivery of Office Equipment to Selected Division and District Offices in the Philippines.
2. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of office equipment.
3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution or delivery of office equipment to remote areas in a developing country like the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of PBAC for Foreign Assisted Projects, Second Floor, Rizal Building I, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. Nos. (632) 636-6542 or 632-1361 local 2115 or 2085, Telefax No. (632) 635-3762.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting January 29, 2001 upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).
6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank *Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.*
7. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, on or before 10:00 AM on March 7, 2001 and must be accompanied by a security of two (2) percent of total bid price.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 AM on March 7, 2001 at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on February 14, 2001, 10:00 AM, at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary and
Vice-Chairman, DECS-PBAC

(PDI – Jan. 30, Feb 1 & 3, 2001)

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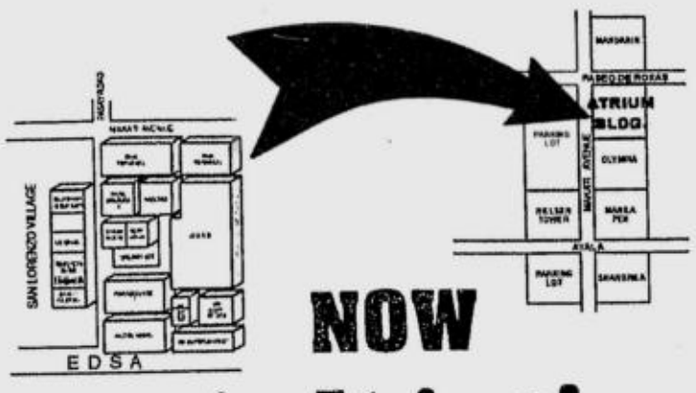

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UN report cites evidence of global warming

LEADING climate change scientists and government officials from around the world have unanimously accepted a new United Nations report projecting a "potentially devastating" global warming over the coming century.

The report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects globally averaged surface temperatures will increase by 1.4 to 5.8 degrees Celsius from 1990 to 2100. This forecast is higher than the global warming projection of 1 to 3.5 degrees Celsius made by the same panel five years ago.

Temperature increase

According to the most recent report, new analyses of data from tree rings, corals, ice cores and historical records for the Northern Hemisphere show an increase in temperature in the 20th century that is the largest of any century during the past 1,000 years.

The scientists also found that snow cover has likely decreased by about 10 percent since the late 1960s in the mid- and high-latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere, and that there has been a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness during the late summer and early autumn in recent decades.

"The scientific consensus presented in this comprehensive report about human-induced climate change should sound alarm bells in every national capital ... " said Klaus Toepfer, executive director of the United Nations Environment Program (Unep), which together with the World Meteorological Organization sponsors the IPCC.

The full report, which is more than 1,000 pages in length and is based on the work of 123 lead authors and 516 contributing authors, took more than three years to produce. Delegates from about 100 nations meeting in Shanghai, China, unanimously accepted the full report after a review of its contents.

The report's Summary for Policymakers is available at the website http://www.ipcc.ch

Key findings

Some of the report's key findings are:

• There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities. Since the IPCC's 1995 report, confidence in the ability of models to project future climate has increased. For example, there is now a longer and more closely scrutinized temperature record. Reconstructions of climate data for the past 1,000 years, as well as model estimates of natural climate variations, suggest that the observed warming over the past 100 years was unusual and is unlikely to be entirely natural in origin. In addition, detection and attribution studies consistently find evidence for an anthropogenic signal in the climate record of the last 35-50 years. However, there are still many remaining gaps in information and understanding about climate change.

• An increasing body of observation gives a collective picture of a warm world.

• Globally it is very likely that the 1990s were the warmest decade, and 1998 the warmest year, in the instrumental record, since 1861. Now analyses of data from tree rings, corals, ice cores and historical records for the Northern Hemisphere indicate that the increase in temperature in the 20th century is likely to have been the largest of any century during the past 1,000 years, and it is likely that the 1990s were the warmest decade and 1998 was the warmest year.

• In the mid and high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere, it is very likely that snow cover has decreased by about 10 percent since the late 1960s, and the annual duration of lake- and river-ice cover has shortened by about two weeks over the 20th century. It is likely that there has been about a 40-percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness during late summer to early autumn in recent decades.

• Since 1750, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased by 31 percent from 280 parts per million (ppm) to about 367 ppm today. The present CO_2 concentration has not been exceeded during the past 420,000 years and likely not during the past 20 million years.

• The globally averaged surface temperature is projected to increase by 1.4 to 5.8°C from 1990 to 2100. This is higher than the 1995 Second Assessment Report's protection of 1 to 3.5°C, largely because future sulfur dioxide emissions (which help to cool the Earth) are now expected to be lower. This future warming is on top of a 0.6°C increase since 1861.

• Global average water vapor concentration and precipitation are projected to increase. More intense precipitation events are likely over many Northern Hemisphere's mid- to high-latitude land areas. The observed intensities and frequencies of tropical and extra-tropical cyclones and local storms, however, currently show no clear, long-term trends, although data are often sparse and inadequate.

• Sea-levels are projected to rise by 0.09 to 0.88 meters from 1990 to 2100. Despite higher temperature projections these sea level projections are, slightly lower than the range projected in the SAR (0.13 to 0.94 meters), primarily due to the use of improved models, which give a smaller contribution from glaciers and ice sheets.

What is a booger made of?

BY QUEENA N. LEE-CHUA

FOLLOWING is a down-to-earth yet interesting query from R. Martinez [rmart@edsamail.com.ph]:

What is the chemical composition of *kulangot*? How is it related to the evolution of higher animals?

A booger (in local parlance, *kulangot*) is basically made of mucus, found in the lining of the entrance to the nose. This mucus helps in the filtration of air, and helps to entrap and destroy bacteria. Let us take a closer look at this process, as described in "ABC's of the Human Body" (Montreal: Reader's Digest):

"Filtration is a two-stage process. Just inside the entrance to the nostrils, short, stiff hairs screen out airborne pollen, fuzz, grit and other large particles. Any debris that eludes this first line of defense then encounters even more formidable opposition. It may be summarily ejected if it irritates the nose in such a way as to trigger a sneeze. Or it may run afoul of the mucus membrane. This membrane, which lines the respiratory passages, secrets a viscuous substance called mucus that not only entraps bacteria mechanically but also contains a powerful substance, called lysozyme, that destroys the bacteria chemically.

"Every 20 minutes or so, the nose produces a fresh batch of mucus—as much as 1 quart (0.9 liter), all told, on an ordinary day. To get rid of the old, debris-laden mucus, your nose has billions of tiny hairlike cilia that poke up through the layer of mucus. With nearly a thousand sweeping strokes every minute, the cilia propel the secretions on their way toward the esophagus and stomach. There, digestive juices destroy many of the entrapped bacteria. In a healthy adult, mucus moves at about one-quarter inch (0.6 centimeter) per minute. However, the rate of clearance is considerably slower in people who smoke, drink alcohol to excess, are dehydrated, or are in general poor health. The slower the movement, of course, the less effectively the nose can defend you against bacteria and other attackers."

As for mucus, it is made mostly of a compound of protein and sugar. As for the relationship of this to evolution, suffice it to say that when animals evolved to the stage of mammals (with their requisite nasal appendages), there must be a way to protect them from dirt, soot and other debris. Mucus (and when it becomes a booger) is one way of doing so.

* * *

Trivia time! It is always fascinating to learn about people and things, especially when the information happens to be true. My husband Smith forwarded the following interesting facts and figures to me through e-mail. Read them and prepare to join game shows:

1. Coca-cola was originally green.
2. Generally, men can read smaller print than women, but women can hear better than men.
3. Hong Kong is the city with the most Rolls Royces per capita.
4. According to some studies, intelligent people generally have more zinc and copper in their hair.
5. The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9, and lived in China in 1910.
6. The youngest Pope was 11 years old.
7. The first novel ever written on a typewriter was "Tom Sawyer."
8. Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: King David (spades), Alexander the Great (clubs), Charlemagne (hearts), and Julius Caesar (diamonds).
9. "I am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English alphabet.
10. Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it is kissing the conveyor belt.
11. The name "Jeep" came from the abbreviation used in the army for the General Purpose vehicle, G.P.
12. The nursery rhyme "Ring Around the Rosy" is a rhyme about the bubonic plague. Infected people with the plague would get red circular sores ("ring around the rosy")/ These sores would smell very bad so people would hide flowers on their bodies in an attempt to mask the smell ("pocket full of posies")/ People who died from the plague would be burned to reduce the spread of the disease ("ashes, ashes, we all fall down").
13. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers all have in common? They were all invented by women.
14. If you were to spell out consecutive numbers, how far would you have to go until you find the letter "A"? One thousand.
15. 111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321

* * *

Send your queries to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph.

The case of the transient attack

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, M. D.

C.P. is a 58-year-old politician or public servant, as he prefers to be called. With a political career spanning more than 30 years, he has made countless speeches, but one speech he particularly remembers was the one he was delivering before his party leaders at the start of the political crisis a few months back.

Midway through his speech, C.P. tried to clench his right fist and raise his hand to emphasize a point but it just wouldn't follow. His right leg felt numb. His audience also noted the sudden slur in his speech.

For a few anxious moments, he stood on the podium, speechless and unable to explain what was happening to him. Fearing that something was seriously wrong, his partymates rushed him to a nearby hospital. But even before they could reach the emergency room, all his symptoms suddenly disappeared as if nothing happened. C.P. even felt embarrassed that his friends might think he was just putting on an act.

"You were not imagining or acting everything that happened to you," the neurologist who saw him at the ER said, "You actually had a transient ischemic attack or TIA."

MEDICAL FILES

Older people at risk

A TIA is defined as a disturbance in brain function brought about by a temporary or transient deficiency in the brain's blood supply. It is caused by atheromas or calcified fatty materials that build up on the wall of an artery that get dislodged and temporarily block the small blood vessels leading to the brain. Blood clots consisting of clumps of platelets and other blood elements may also contribute to a TIA.

The prevalence of TIA is higher in the middle-age group and progressively increases with age. It may also occur in young adults or even in children who have heart disease or blood disorders.

Considered risk factors for TIA are hypertension, diabetes, smoking, excess of red blood cells called polycythemia and heart disease particularly those involving the heart valves and causing abnormal beating of the heart, known as arrhythmia.

Symptoms of TIA vary depending on which part of the brain is affected. When the arteries emanating from the carotid are involved, the patient may experience transient blindness in one eye or weakness and other sensation abnormalities on one side of the body. If the blood vessels involved are those from the vertebral arteries at the back of the brain, there is usually dizziness, double vision and general weakness.

Other symptoms of TIA are partial loss of vision or hearing, slurred speech, mental lapses, inability to recognize parts of the body, unusual movements, loss of bladder control, imbalance and falling or fainting. All symptoms are similar to those of a stroke except that they are only temporary and reversible. The symptoms generally start suddenly and last from 2 to30 minutes; rarely do they last more than 1-2 hours.

"Do I need a CT scan, doc?" C.P. asked.

"We can do it but I'm afraid it won't really show anything," the doctor replied. "A computed tomography, or CT scan, and a magnetic resonance imaging, or an MRI, may be helpful in diagnosing a stroke, but in TIA, since brain damage has not occurred, it may not show anything."

"What's our next step then, doc?" C.P. anxiously asked.

"Since we suspect a blockage in your carotid arteries, I suggest we do an ultrasound scan and Doppler flow study to measure the size of the blockage and the amount of blood that can flow through it. If the carotid arteries are severely narrowed, we may have to proceed with an MRI scan of the arteries or perform cerebral angiography to determine the size and location of the blockage. In angiography, a radio-opaque fluid that can be seen on X-ray is injected which will outline the blockage of the artery."

Lifestyle modification

"Do I take any pills?" C.P. asked.

"You have to in order to prevent a stroke. But equally important are the lifestyle changes or behavioral factors that include a healthy diet, regular exercise, cessation of smoking and excessive drinking and good stress management. Lifestyle modification is always the first step of therapy. For the pills, we'll have to give you anti-platelet drugs that will reduce the blood's tendency to form clots. Drugs that have been shown to do this are aspirin, dipyridamole, ticlopidine, clopidogrel and Omega-3 PUFA. We can try one or a combination of these drugs. Should we need stronger drugs, anticoagulants such as warfarin may be tried."

"Where does surgery come in, doc?"

"That will depend on the degree of blockage in the carotid arteries," the doctor replied. "If the blockage is more than 70 percent with a recent episode of stroke-like symptoms as in your case, endarterectomy, which is the surgery to remove the atheromas or calcified fatty materials, is recommended. This procedure however carries a 1-2 percent risk of causing a stroke. Hence, for smaller blockages without symptoms, the risk of surgery may be greater than doing nothing."

C.P. had an ultrasound and Doppler flow studies and these showed small and insignificant blockages of his carotid arteries. He was advised to just continue his anti-platelet pills and modify his lifestyle. He strictly followed the doctor's advice on diet, exercise and smoking cessation.

But he could not avoid the stress his political conviction required. During one of the almost nightly rallies he attended, he said: "I love life and I fear death. But I would rather die with my boots on."

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some data have been changed to cover the identity of the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Please send comments or questions to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors Hospital, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila or e-mail rrc@i-manila.com.ph)

Flipper uses a herring aid

PARIS —The friendly clicks made by dolphins appear to be bolts of sounds with which they stun or bewilder their prey, US marine experts believe.

Florida Atlantic University researcher Denise Herzing and Ken Marten of Earthtrust in Hawaii say they have the first videotaped evidence to back a theory that dolphins use their sonar to attack as well as locate their prey.

They recorded dolphins chasing herring, in which they came up close to the fish and emitted low bangs at a frequency that would have damaged their sound sensors, the British weekly New Scientist reported.

The team experimented by playing similar low-frequency noises amid a shoal of anchovies, which disoriented the tiny fish so much that they swam around in circles, remained still or even died.

In another recording, wild Atlantic spotted dolphins emitted a medium frequency while they were searching for prey on the sandy seabed, causing buried eels to jump out of the sand and simply linger in the water as if stunned. **AFP**

A woman's best bet against breast cancer

THE SIZE and extent of the spread of breast cancer are the most important factors in predicting a woman's survival of this leading killer of women. Detecting a breast cancer as early as possible greatly improves the likelihood that treatment will be successful. There is no question that early detection of breast cancer saves, thousands of lives each year.

Breast Self-Examination (BSE) and mammography in tandem offer women the best opportunity for early detection and early treatment of breast cancer. This combined approach is clearly better than any one examination. BSE without mammography would miss the opportunity to many breast cancers that are too small to be felt or palpated but can be seen in mammography. Likewise there are also breast cancers that do not show up on mammography but can be felt or palpated by a woman.

Women of 20-49 years should perform BSE every month after menstruation when the breasts are not tender. It is recommended that they should see a health professional in the clinic for breast examination once a year or as necessary. Significantly, about a fourth of all breast cancers occur in women in their 40s, thus they are encouraged to submit for breast cancer screening every year.

In a developing country like the Philippines, high-risk women and those with suspicious findings in breast examination should submit for mammography. This is an X-ray scanning the breast at all angles. This X-ray machine emits a low dose of radiation that does not pose a significant risk to the health of a woman. The physician reading the film will look for several types of changes such as calcification or cyst. To further confirm whether cancer is present, a biopsy is performed. This is a procedure of collecting a small tissue in the suspected site for microscopic examination.

For women who are 40 years and above, the combination of monthly BSE and yearly mammography is a cost-effective and painless way of detecting breast cancer early. Just a little diligence can prevent the all-too real tragedy of breast cancer.

More fat kids due to school feeding program

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE GOVERNMENT'S milk-feeding program in public schools could be partly attributed to the large increase in obese schoolchildren in the country today.

Thelma Guerrero-Santos, assistant director for health of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, said the emergence of obesity had been noticeable only in the past five years, which coincided with the feeding program.

Before the program, the incidence of obesity among schoolchildren had been very low, with only about one percent of the pupils considered obese. The figure has increased every year since.

"When the milk-feeding program started, the rise in the obese percentage was fast," Santos said.

She added that milk and iron-fortified rice were given to all first grade pupils and all severely underweight students in other grade levels in fifth and sixth class municipalities.

Last year, the DECS was given P80 million for the program. More than half of this came from Sen. Franklin Drilon's fund, while P29 million was sourced from the DECS' General Appropriations Act last year.

"We didn't want to deprive them (children) then so we didn't discriminate against the fat kids even in the milk-feeding program," DECS health director Adelfo Trinidad said. "But we have to do selective feeding now because obesity is becoming a problem."

According to a report by the DECS School Health and Nutrition Center, about five percent, or 449,160, of the 8.99 million elementary students surveyed for school year 2000-2001 were found to be obese, while 1.3 percent were severely underweight. Most of the fat kids are based in Metro Manila.

"It's still not clear how we would address this problem yet because it's new. Usually, and even until now, the severely and moderately underweight students were our problem," said Trinidad.

Developing baby's visual acuity easy as black and white

IS this sentence clear to you? No, we don't mean the syntax but your, say, visual acuity (of the sentence) or what laymen call—plain and simple—good, clear eyes. So, what can you do to make your child improve his visual acuity?

In a study conducted by the Retina Foundation of the Southwest in Dallas, Texas, for instance, term infants receiving a diet supplemented with DHA and ARA in specific amounts raised their visual acuity or visual performance at 6, 17 and 52 weeks. In fact, the visual improvement was equivalent to one line on an eye chart.

The trial, which appeared in the scientific journal Pediatric Research in 1998, demonstrated a direct beneficial effect on visual acuity development related to the dietary intake of DHA and ARA.

Higher levels of DHA in the infant blood, resulting from DHA supplementation, were correlated with improved visual function.

In another scientific experiment published in the book "How to Have A Smarter Baby" by Dr. Susan Ludington-Hoe and Susan Golant, it was discovered that infants could actually see 16 stripes in a one-inch square without fuzziness.

All parts of his visual system—muscles, lens, retina—quickly become finely tuned. At two months, his eyes mature to the point where they can function together. He is able to see things at the end of his nose. You can hold visual toys 20 inches from his eyes and he'll see them clearly. By three months, he will be seeing objects within a distance of 10 feet, to show that he has near and far vision.

Authors Ludington-Hoe and Golant, as well as our very own pediatrician Dr. Milagros Rafol in an interview, elaborate on these points, listing some of the many things parents can do to develop a newborn's visual perception:

• For babies between zero and two months, toys, mobiles and even posters of the spiral black and white pattern or the checkered red and white pattern help improve his visual acuity. Make her play with a black and white panda. Choose a mobile of the same color scheme, but make sure it can be hung safely and that the key elements are facedown, so they are in full view.

• Of all the geometric shapes and designs, babies seem most captivated by circles. It is much easier for the newborn eye to make a series of jumps around a circle's edge than to navigate around corners. Help him practice by initiating eye-to-eye contact in the very first weeks of life.

• Babies like to see other babies. Show them pictures of other babies, or face them in front of the mirror, or have them interact with other babies.

• Buy books on regular everyday objects like cat, flower and stars. There are also books on activities, colors, numbers and the alphabet.

• When we go out with our babies, point out the things that they have seen in the books. For instance, while strolling around the neighborhood, point out the dog and say, "Dog. That is a white dog. The dog is barking."

• Make simple but accurate drawings of the mother and father on paper plates to hang in a baby's crib. If there's anything babies enjoy looking at, it is a human face. When you're around, show a warm, open face. Better yet, sing or talk.

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Hirudoid is unlike any other rejuvenation cream.
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For the face: 1 1/2 cm. ribbon of Hirudoid 2x a day
For each arm: 2 cm. ribbon of Hirudoid 2x a day
For each leg: 3 cm. ribbon of Hirudoid 2x a day

FOR CUTS AND SCARS
• Spread a generous amount of Hirudoid cream gently.
• Apply 2x a day until old skin flakes off and softer, smoother skin is revealed.
• Also effective on post-operative scars.
• For old scars, vigorously rub Hirudoid until fully absorbed by the skin (amount depending on size of scar).
• Apply 3x a day until old skin flakes off and softer, smoother skin is revealed.

FOR HEMATOMAS, BRUISES AND BUMPS
• Gently massage 3-5 cm. ribbon of Hirudoid until fully absorbed by the skin.
• Apply 3x a day until swelling is fully healed.

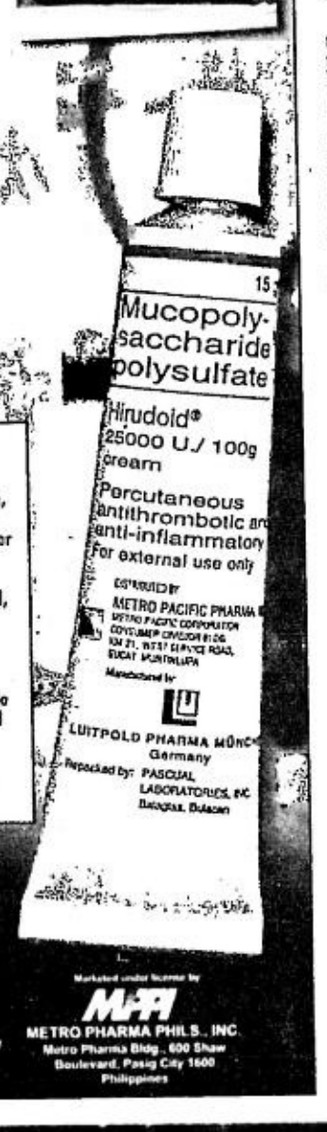
VARICOSE VEINS

Varicose veins are characterized by abnormally swollen or dilated veins due to the congestion and pooling of blood in the enlarged superficial venous system. Swelling, aching, and heaviness of the legs are just some symptoms, which are worsened by prolonged sitting or standing, obesity, and pregnancy. Varicosities are developed over time, thus, their management will likewise require a longer treatment period.

However, varicosities can be prevented by the elevation of the legs above heart level, the use of calf-length elastic stocking support, and with the use of Hirudoid to improve the venous and circulatory systems.

The use of Hirudoid provides you with immediate relief from pain and tiredness of the legs. Most importantly, the regular and continuous use of Hirudoid will enable you to obtain maximum results from the swelling of dilated veins through improved venous blood circulation, addressing your aesthetic concerns.

Simply massage a 3-5 cm. of Hirudoid cream or gel (available in 40g tube) in the affected areas twice a day until varicosities have visibly subsided.



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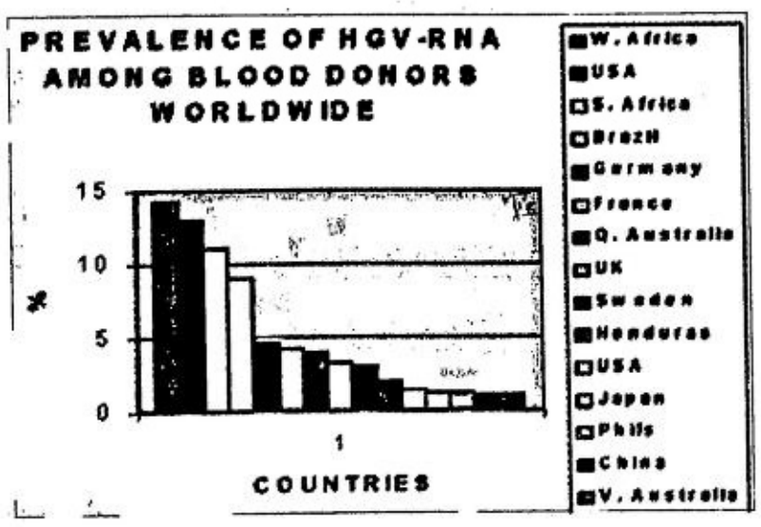
SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Experts closely watching new hepatitis virus

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR



A COMPOSITE of all the hepatitis G information worldwide. Note the Philippines among the last.

THERE is a new addition to the hepatitis virus alphabet—the hepatitis G virus.

A virus transmitted through the blood, hepatitis G is an RNA-virus cousin of hepatitis C. It has recently created a ripple in the global medical community and is feared to be a virus waiting to become a disease.

The Liver Study Group (LSG) of the University of the Philippines, which has been studying all the known hepatitis viruses in the country, has now included hepatitis G in its list. Its most recent effort focused on finding how the Philippines stands compared to other countries in terms of the presence and prevalence of the hepatitis G virus.

The group conducted a study among more than 1,000 subjects composed of healthy volunteer adult blood donors, chronic liver disease patients, hemodialysis patients and multiple-transfused patients. Both sexes were represented in the study and their ages ranged from 11 to 89 years.

Results of the study were encouraging: the Philippines, for now, has a relatively small incidence of hepatitis G virus transmission and ranks third to the last in terms of prevalence among blood donors worldwide.

The LSG said the presence of the hepatitis G virus in the country is no cause for alarm yet, stressing that it is "not something to be afraid of" but just something "to be aware of."

Experts have stressed that the hepatitis G virus has not yet manifested into a disease and is still technically just a virus.

"We want to know the characteristics of emerging infectious agents early on and what it could be capable of doing in the future," said Bernadette Ramirez, associate professor and vice chair for research of the biochemistry and molecular biology department of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine.

"We want to know the extent of its distribution in our population so that in the event that it mutates, or causes an infectious outbreak, then we are prepared."

She added that the group could also recommend to the Department of Health what to anticipate and how to develop new strategies for disease control.

"The rest of the world is looking into it," she said of the virus.

How is the hepatitis G virus contracted?

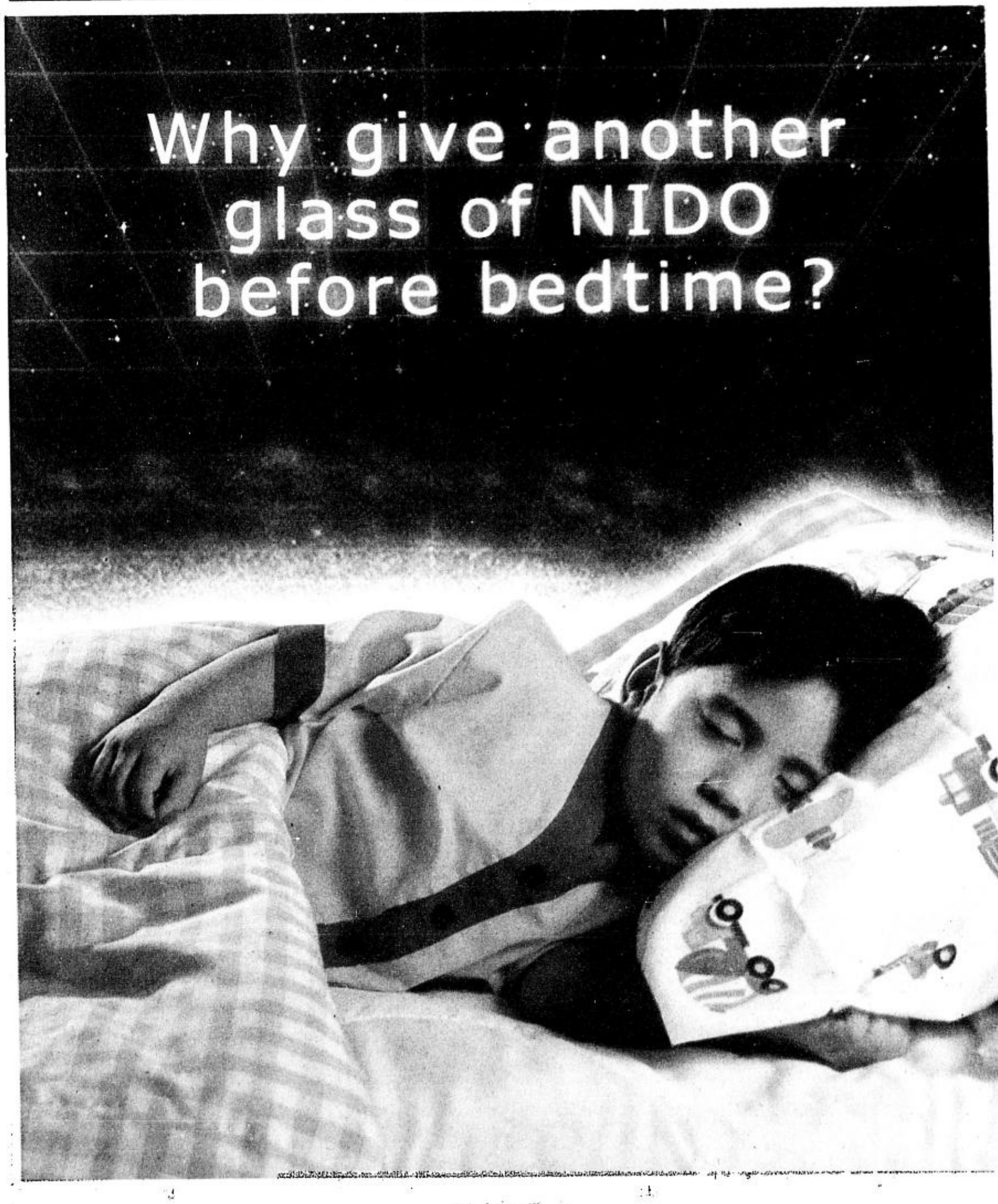
The LSG is looking into groups that it thinks are at high risk. Aside from those exposed to blood transfusions and hemodialysis, people who are at risk are those who use or share intravenous needles.

"When you think of a blood-borne virus, the first thing that comes into your mind is to look for it in a population that would potentially spread it and who would accept the blood donors themselves. (Once infectious blood is donated and accepted) it can transmit the virus to others," Ramirez said.

The virus is believed to be present in 1.7 percent of healthy blood donors.

Filipinos are more familiar with the more prevalent hepatitis A, B and C viruses. These three cause 90 percent of the hepatitis cases in the country.

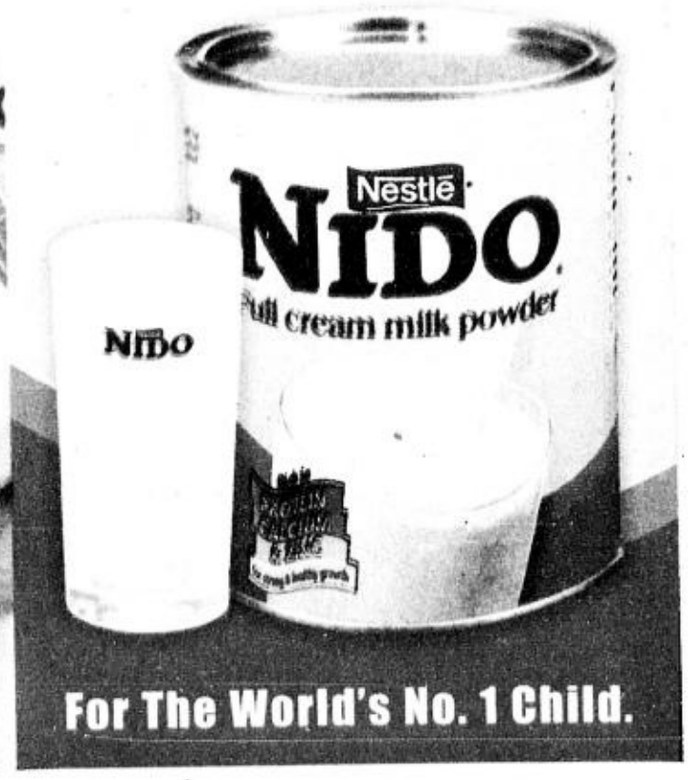
Ramirez said the possibility of discovering more hepatitis strains is not remote. Hepatitis G can only be detected through a sophisticated test in laboratories. No "snap" blood screening for this virus is yet available.



Studies have shown that it is during sleep that the body grows at its peak rate. Giving your child NIDO before bedtime is important because it provides the perfect combination of nutrients that are essential to growth... while he sleeps.

Protein - builds and repairs muscles
Calcium - makes bones grow
Zinc - strengthens the immune system

So apart from his usual glasses during the day, give your child NIDO before you kiss him good night.



For The World's No. 1 Child.

Saturday SPECIAL
NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Jack Nicholson turns in another compelling performance

ROBIN Wright Penn and Jack Nicholson star in "The Pledge." AP

BY DAVID GERMAIN

LOS ANGELES—No actor descends into madness quite like Jack Nicholson.

Sean Penn's latest directing effort, "The Pledge," succeeds thanks to a compelling performance from Nicholson, with big assists from a spate of big-name cameos.

Bleak conclusion

The movie runs longer than necessary, sometimes lapses into heavy-handedness and winds its way to a bleak conclusion.

Yet "The Pledge" is a fresh, disturbing take on the whodunit, with Nicholson fiendishly capturing the decline of a man overwhelmed by his demons.

JACK/ C2

Nothing succeeds like competition

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

CONVENTIONAL wisdom in the movie trade has it that nothing succeeds like competition. Fans love stellar rivalry because it encourages them to take sides, to praise their favorite stars to high heavens *and* vilify and excoriate their rivals to kingdom come.

That's what has made the competitive careers of Nora Aunor and Vilma Santos last for decades. Taking its cue from that most productive rivalry, Viva Films is now trying to do the same with its two sexy stars, Joyce Jimenez and Rica Peralejo.

Time was when Joyce ruled the sexy roost at Viva, but Rica went topless in "Balahibong Pusa" to show that she could compete in the stripping department, so she's being built up in a hurry to give Joyce some stellar competition.

They're competing not just in terms of epidermal exposure, but also in the slant being given to their projects' publicity. Rica is reported to have described "Balahibong Pusa" as "her" movie, when in fact the role of its female protagonist was played by Joyce.

For her part, Joyce has chosen to be above-it-all, but the "rivalry" scenario has been put in play, whether she likes it or not.

What do sex-film buffs think about this? They sense that it's all a PR ploy, but they're willing to play along, if it will egg the two stars to push their daring and baring to the limit!

Thus far, it's Joyce who's ahead, because she's done frontal nudity, while Rica has "merely" gone topless. But Rica is currently shooting her launching flick as a solo bold star, so she may go all the way there in terms of stripping, just to even things up with "Queen" Joyce.

Another factor in play in this scenario is the report that Joyce has decided not to renew her exclusive contract with Viva. If this is true, it explains why the TV-movie studio is in such a big rush to build Rica up as a bold star.—And why Joyce is not being all that cooperative in heating up the rivalry by way of acerbic remarks hurled at Rica.

Being more experienced in the movie game, she knows that controversy benefits new starlets more than stars, and that, if she puts Rica down, that could make the starlet come across as a "*kawawa*"—and you know how the members of the show biz audience just love to root for underdogs.

In any case, "Balahibong Pusa" became a hit partly because it pitted Joyce and Rica against each other, inviting viewers to compare them on point of physical assets, daring and gumption. Now that Joyce is expanding her stellar options, it isn't likely that the two sexy actresses will appear in another movie together anytime soon.

Movies on TV

On HBO: Saturday, Feb. 3, 6 a.m., "Paradise Alley." 7:45 a.m., "The Legend of Dogwoman." 9:30 a.m., "Barbara Taylor Bradford's 'A Secret Affair.'" 11 a.m., "Raising Cain." 12:30 p.m., "Dangerous Beauty." 2:30 p.m., "The Fury Within." 4 p.m., "Milk Money." 5:45 p.m., "Trial and Error." 7:30 p.m., "On Hostile Ground." 9 p.m., "Jawbreaker." 10:30 p.m., "Gremlins 2: The New Batch." 12:15 a.m., "Xtreme: Sports to Die For." 1:25 a.m., "Moon Over Parador." 3:15 a.m., "Loose Cannons." 4:45 a.m., "Positive ID."

Sunday, Feb. 4: 6:30 a.m., "Black and White." 8 a.m., "Last Rites." 9:30 a.m., "Heart and Souls." 11:15 a.m., "Criminal Instinct: Deadly Appearances." 1 p.m., "Meteorites!" 2:30 p.m., "Lansky: A True Story." 4:30 p.m., "Batman." 6:30 p.m., "In the Doghouse." 8 p.m., "The Negotiator." 10:15 p.m., "Problem Child 2." 11:45 p.m., "Action 5: Mr. Dragon Goes to Washington." 12:10 a.m., "Why Do Fools Fall in Love." 2:15 a.m., "Shot Through the Heart." 4:15 a.m., "Little Nikita."

Monday, Feb. 5: 6 a.m., "Walking Across Egypt." 7:45 a.m., "Stolen Women." 9:30 a.m., "In Country." 11:30 a.m., "Nowhere Land." 1 p.m., "The Karate Kid, 3." 3 p.m., "The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings." 5 p.m., "The Big Picture." 6:45 p.m., "Lost in Space." 9 p.m., "Frozen." 10:30 p.m., "Midnight Run." 12:35 p.m., "The Karate Kid, 3." 2:30 a.m., "Stroker Ace." 4:15 a.m., "Lost in Space."

On the Cinemax channel: Saturday, Feb. 3, 6 a.m., "Bullseye!" 7:45 a.m., "The Adventures of Brisco County Jr." 9:15 a.m., "New Eden." 10:45 a.m., "Hexed." 12:15 p.m., "Lured Innocence." 2 p.m., "East of Eden." 4 p.m., "Private Benjamin." 5:45 p.m., "Cherry." 7:15 p.m., "Can't Hardly Wait." 9 p.m., "The Last Witness." 10:30 p.m., "The Adventures of Brisco County Jr." 12:05 a.m., "Nuremberg, Part 1." 1:35 p.m., "Nuremberg, Part 2." 3:15 a.m., "I, The Jury." 5 a.m., "Hexed."

Sunday, Feb. 4: 6:30 a.m., "Night Train." 8 a.m.,

NOTHING/ C3

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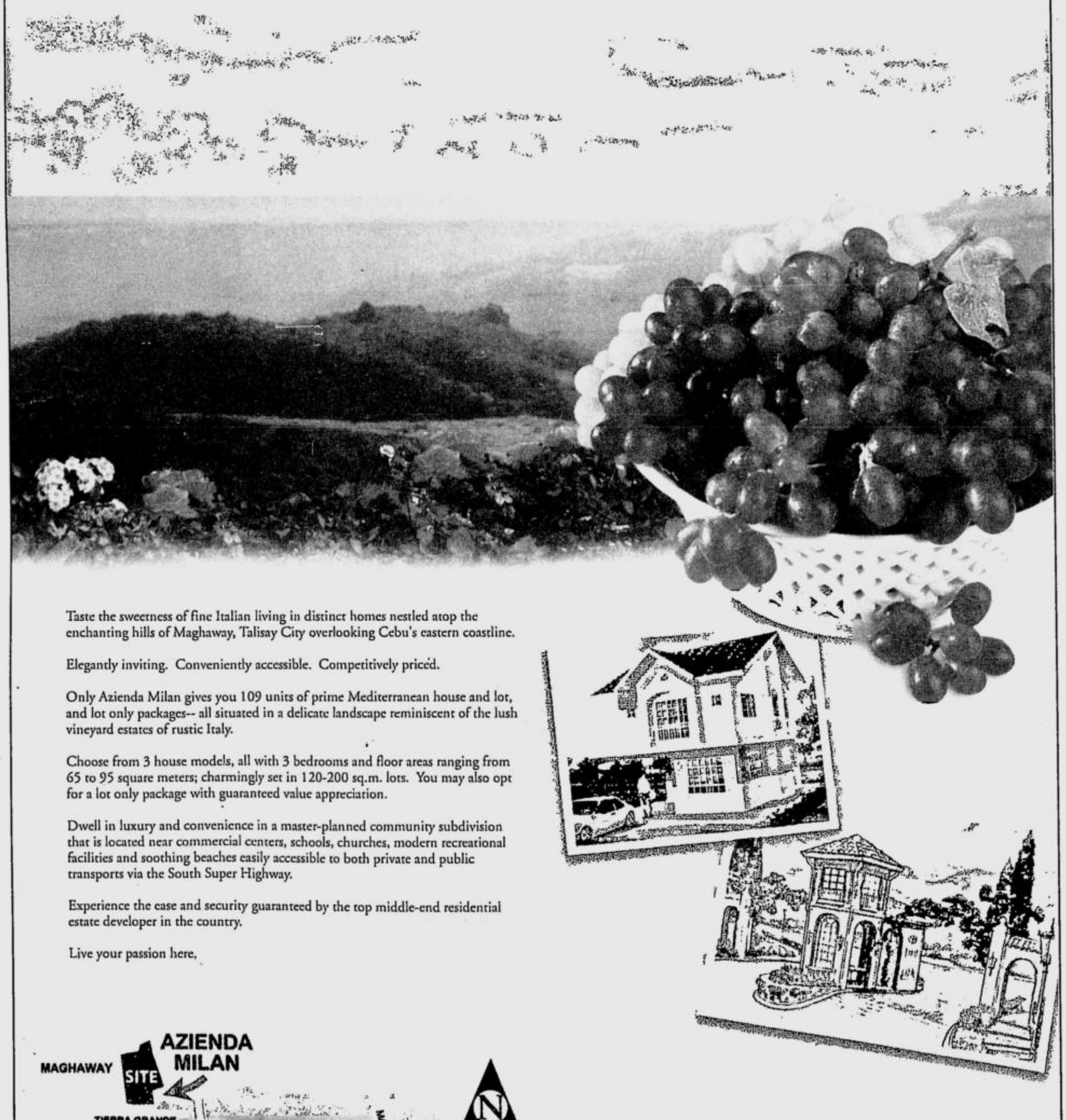

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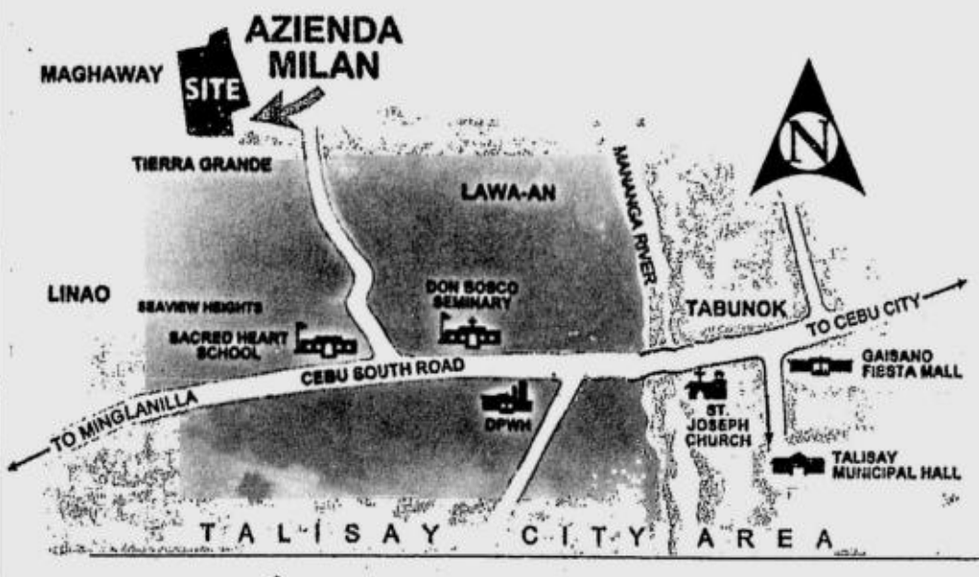

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Jack . . .

(From page C1)

Nicholson plays top-notch homicide detective Jerry Black, who insinuates himself into a murder investigation that crops up during his retirement party.

"I still got six more hours," Jerry tells his colleagues, who bring him along as they investigate the grisly rape and murder of an 8-year-old girl.

"It isn't possible. There can't be such devils," says the girl's stunned mother (Patricia Clarkson).

"There are such devils," Jerry replies, foreshadowing the inner monsters about to torment him.

At the mother's insistence, Jerry swears to find the girl's killer. Emotionally gripping as it is, the scene rings false, with Clarkson's character too abruptly switching from grief to vengeance mode for the convenience of setting up Jerry's subsequent obsession.

Dubious confession

A dimwitted American Indian (Benicio Del Toro) is quickly nabbed for the crime. He did time for statutory rape, is hoodwinked into a dubious confession then, conveniently, kills himself.

Case closed, as far as Jerry's boss (Sam Shepard) and colleague (Aaron Eckhart) are concerned.

But Jerry has doubts, which follow him into retirement. Other than his passion for fishing, Jerry's life now is empty. He continues the investigation on his own.

A similar murder and a girl's disappearance years earlier convince Jerry that a child killer is loose in the area.

Using Jerry's fishing trip as metaphor for the manhunt to follow, Penn skillfully shifts "The Pledge" from the story of a flatfoot to the tale of a man slipping into all-consuming paranoia.

Triangulating on the locations of the two murders and the disappearance, Jerry picks a central spot, buys a tackle shop and gas station and sets himself up in a sort of duck blind to watch for the killer.

As his preoccupation grows, Jerry's observations become increasingly hallucinatory, with everyday sightings taking on the hazy quality of visions.

Single mother

He romances a single mother (the director's wife, Robin Wright Penn) and while Jerry's affection seems genuine, his motive is ambiguous. Is he in love? Or has he signed on as protector for the woman's young daughter, who proves to be useful bait in Jerry's investigation?

Like Penn's previous directing efforts, "The Crossing Guard" (also starring Nicholson) and "The Indian Runner," "The Pledge" moves languidly and might have benefitted from some significant cuts. Unlike those earlier films, which for all their bleakness finished with shades of hope, "The Pledge" lands in a place of utter desolation.

With his growing tics and barely repressed rage, Nicholson goes wacko in a new and subtler way. It's a bit of a gut-punch to see how Jerry, one of Nicholson's more sympathetic characters, ends up.

The cast is rounded out by brief but notable appearances from Vanessa Redgrave, Helen Mirren, Harry Dean Stanton, Mickey Rourke, Michael O'Keefe and Costas Mandylor. *AP*

FREESTYLE. Their fans love their sentimental songs.

ALL SAINTS. Uninspired lyrics.

Freestyle and All Saints come out with new albums

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

Freestyle Live
Freestyle
Neo/Viva Records

IF you listen to Freestyle regularly, you'd want to get this album because it gives you a feel of their live performances. Their pop/R & B groove is evident in each cut.

The only letdown is that they don't perform the familiar, popular cover songs in their repertoire as whole songs but as part of an upbeat medley.

"If I Told You That," "Doesn't Really Matter," "Try Again," "Thong Song" and "Fill Me In" entice you to move and dance but it's too short a medley to really sustain your enthusiasm. Just as you feel your energy building up, you hear the medley winding down. Bummer!

But their slow ballads make up for this. "So Slow" is a sensual, soothing reminder that lovers shouldn't rush into intimacy in a relationship. "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" is a painful, bittersweet duet with Pops Fernandez.

The lyrics and melody of this duet make you ponder: how do you really know if you're with the right one? It's also a better Tagalog version of the song, "Sad To Belong to Someone Else."

"Missing You" is a sentimental look at breakups. The lyrics, "Every road leads me back to you/can't convince myself that we're through" sound achingly familiar to anyone who has experienced heartbreak.

"This Time" is a mushy tune that reminds ladies that men can be sensitive creatures, too. The melody and lyrics show a man's romantic, emotional and vulnerable side. It can almost make you picture a guy kneeling down in front of his girlfriend to win her back.

"Para Sa Iyo/Bakit Iniwan Na" is a good tune for a jukebox. It has recall because the style is laid-back and carefree.

Their love medley, "Weak/Incomplete/6-8-12/I'd Still Say Yes," is the most applauded cut in the album—you can practically hear the audience singing along to it. This medley seems to be tailor-made for Freestyle. The melody highlights the sentimental but lightheartedness of the group.

"Before I Let You Go" hints at their positive and hopeful attitude to life and love. The song aptly caps the whole album because it focuses on acceptance. Finally listeners get a glimpse why Filipinos like this band: sentimentality!

Saints and Sinners
All Saints
Warner Music

All Saints definitely sounds better than the Spice Girls. They entered the scene precisely to give the Spice Girls some tough competition. When they came out with "Lady Marmalade," "Booty Call" and "Never Ever," it seemed like they were going to succeed in giving the Spice Girls a run for their fame and money.

However, their second album leaves much to be desired. Yes "Pure Shores" is a good track that pushed Leonardo Dicaprio's "The Beach" into the consciousness of music lovers, but it isn't as interesting as "Lady Marmalade."

Most of the songs ("All Hooked Up," "Black Coffee," "Ha Ha" and "Distance") have good melodies but the lyrics are uninspired. Hearing their old track "Never Ever" (from their first album) conditions you to expect more grit.

The overall mood of the album is easy, sensual and sexy. Their harmonies sound like the electronic version of the '70s Motown.

But "Dreams" gives you the impression of poetry set to music. The song reminds us to appreciate the stuff we usually take for granted.

The lyrics, "I will raise my glass to my heart and say here's to my tomorrow and my yesterday. Skies are gray, leaving me bright and blue" urge us to appreciate life more.

Mel Gibson is Hollywood's highest-paid movie star

ARNOLD Schwarzenegger is in it. As well as Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks, John Travolta and Jim Carrey. Because of their huge box-office draw, these actors belong to an exclusive list of actors who receive $20 million per picture. They are reputedly the highest-paid actors in Hollywood.

Epic

But last year, Mel Gibson of "Mad Max" and "Lethal Weapon" fame commanded a record-breaking salary of $25 million to star in last summer's revolutionary war epic, "The Patriot." It raked in more than $100 million in the US alone. His follow-up movie, "The Chicken Run" (he provided his marquee value and inimitably cocky voice to the role of the lead rooster), also grossed more than $100 million in the US.

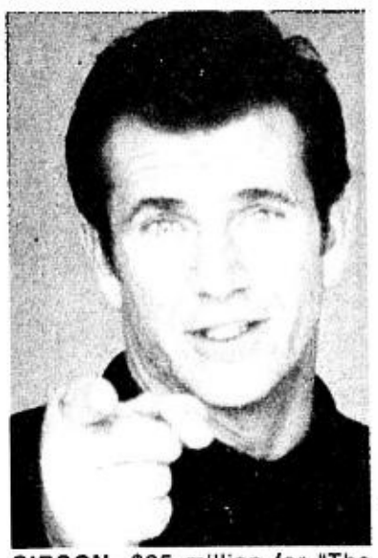
Now, Mel Gibson stars in another certified blockbuster hit: "What Women Want." Gibson plays Nick Marshall, whose brain gets rewired in a freak accident. Suddenly, he can hear what women are thinking!

Romantic comedy

"What Women Want" is Mel's first foray into romantic comedy. Asked why he accepted the project, Mel answers, "'What Women Want' reminds me of the romantic comedies of the 1930s and 1940s. It's like the classic movies by Lubitsch, Capra and Wilder, filled with charm and witty dialogue—but in an updated way.

"It accentuates the differences between men and women, which is the essence of all great romantic comedies."

Gibson was born in upstate New York and moved with his family to Australia when he was 12 years old. Gibson attended the National Institute of Dramatic Arts at the University of New South Wales in Sydney.



GIBSON. $25 million for "The Patriot."

He was brought to the attention of director George Miller, who cast him in "Mad Max," the film that first brought him worldwide recognition.

Title role

This was followed by the title role in "Tim," starring as a handicapped young man for which he won an Australian Film Institute Best Actor Award.

He went on to reprise his role as "Mad Max" in "Mad Max—The Road Warrior" and "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome" and teamed with director Peter Weir in "Gallipoli," which brought Gibson a second Australian Best Actor Award.

Gibson made his American film debut in "The River." And he hasn't stopped making Hollywood movies since.

Joey's affairs to remember

JOEY@92.3 FM gives you six affairs to remember this month, starting off with a free trip for two to picturesque Amsterdam for the ultimate Valentine treat with its "Tulips on Two Lips" promo. To join, tune in to Joey and answer trivia questions on love, Amsterdam and Joey. Get the chance to hie off to Amsterdam for free courtesy of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

Rhythms

Block off your Wednesday nights (Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28) this month and catch the rhythms of Parliament Syndicate and Edge as "Joey's Night Rhythms" sizzles anew at Strumm's Makati. Then it's a date at "Joey's Movie Series" featuring the premieres of four Hollywood blockbusters:

On Feb 5 (Monday), "Castaway" premieres at the Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV at 7:30 p.m. Featuring the Golden Globe-award-winning performance of Tom Hanks as a Federal Express inspector stranded on a remote island for four years.

"Proof of Life" hits the Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 (Tuesday). The action-drama stars Meg Ryan as the wife of an American engineer held hostage in Latin America who hires a hostage negotiator (Rusell Crowe) to bring back her husband.

Added treat

On Feb. 13, Dalmatian mania strikes the cinema 6 of Glorietta IV as Joey brings "102 Dalmatians" to the big screen at 7 p.m. As an added treat, Joey will present an exciting dog show with a puppy petting corner.

And finally, Dr. Hannibal Lecter makes a highly anticipated comeback to the big screen on Feb. 19 at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV at 7:30 p.m. with the premiere of "Hannibal," the sequel to "The Silence of the Lambs," again starring Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins.

Nothing succeeds . . .

(From page C2)

"The Last Innocent Man." 9:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets, Ep. 5: Thrills and Chills." 10:15 a.m., "Les Miserables" (1998). 12:30 p.m., "Prisoner of Love." 2 p.m., "Mind Games." 3:45 p.m., "I Dream of Jeannie... Fifteen Years Later." 5:30 p.m., "Aldrich Ames: Traitor Within." 7:15 p.m., "Past Midnight." 9 p.m., "Blowback." 10:30 p.m., "Future Kick." 11:50 p.m., "The Last Innocent Man." 1:35 a.m., "Les Miserables" (1998). 3:45 a.m., "Command 5." 5:30 a.m., "Hollywood Superstars: Gary Oldman."

Monday, Feb. 5: 6 a.m., "Trial and Retribution 3, Part 1." 7:45 a.m., "Trial and Retribution 3, Part 2." 9:30 a.m., "Ground Zero." 11:15 a.m., "The Big Lebowski." 12:45 p.m., "Giant." 4 p.m., "Roxanne." 6 p.m., "Mr. Rice's Secret." 7:30 p.m., "Airspeed." 9 p.m., "Joe Versus the Volcano." 10:45 p.m., "Cruel Intentions." 12:20 a.m., "Chanelling Baby." 1:55 a.m., "Ground Zero." 3:30 a.m., "Firefighter." 5 a.m., "The Big Lebowski."

Valentine muses

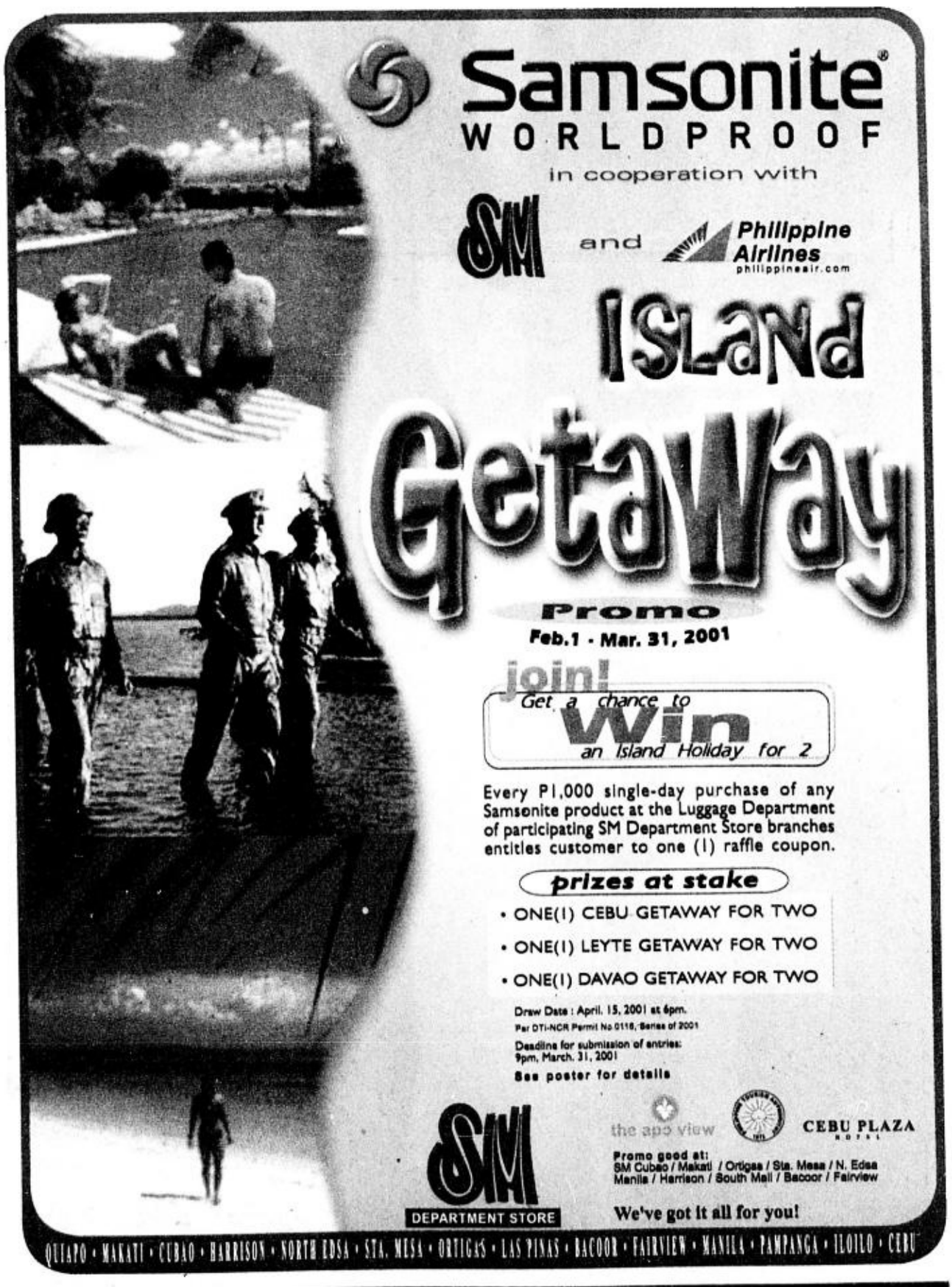
Young chanteuses Melanie Calumpad and Tanya Varona topbill the Valentine special at the Hyatt regency Manila's Calesa Music Bar and Lounge from 9 p.m. onwards on Feb. 14. Calesa's resident pianist, Rudy Francisco, accompanies the pretty singers with Ray Ama on sax and flute and Arnold Agcaoili on bass.

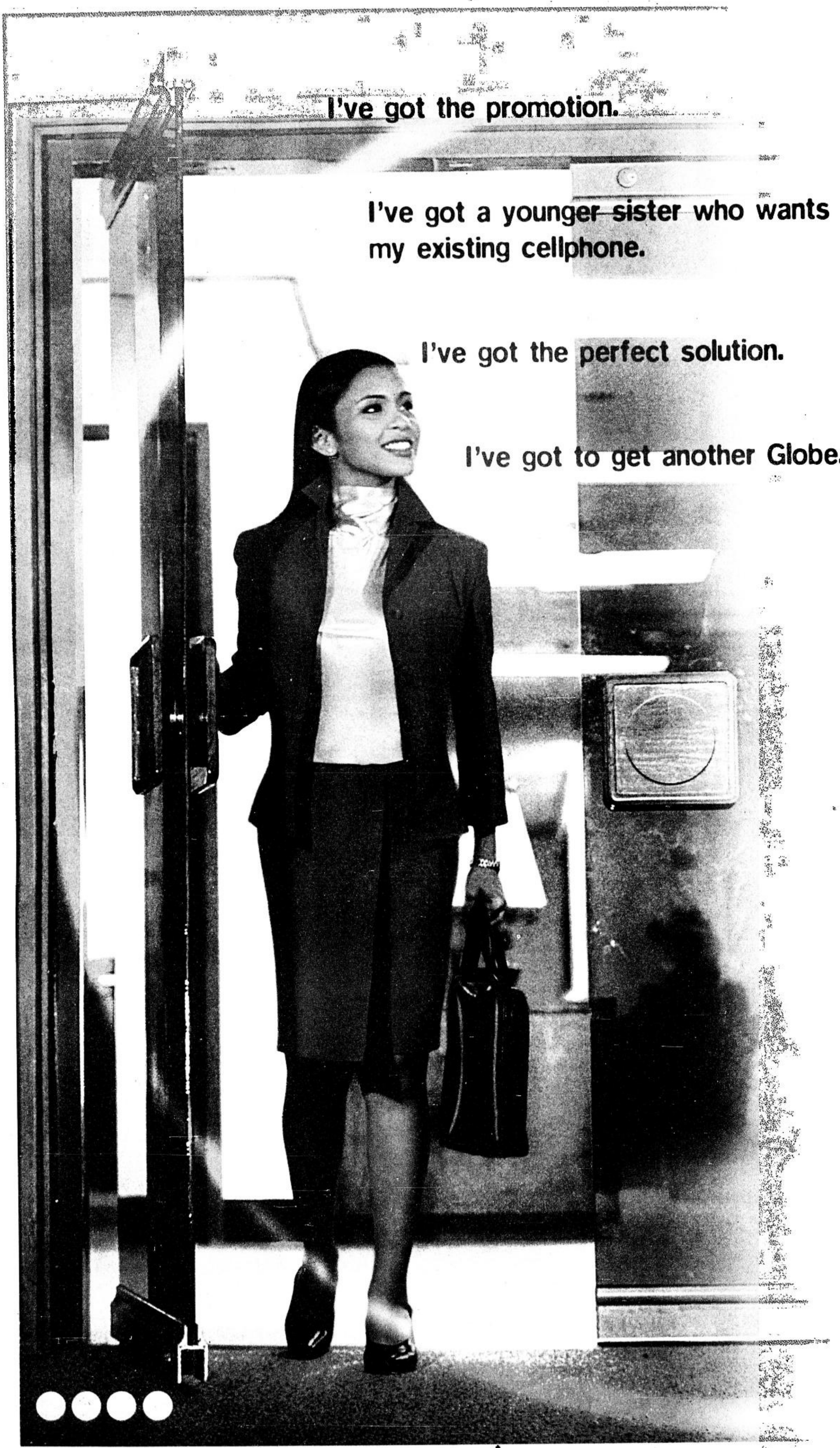
Life's a beach

"Cheche Lazaro Presents" this Sunday (11:30 p.m. over GMA-7) visits Boracay and its beautiful beaches. Take a peek into the everyday island life of an American architect, a Swedish entrepreneur, a Canadian aquasports enthusiast and an Australian housewife who have found a home on the famous island.

Cheche also talks to some locals who recall how life on the island was before the droves of tourists came.

Other features include Boracay's resident tattoo artists, the Tambuli Jam ethnic music group, and the resort island's market.

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Unusual suspects in screwball crime comedy

A DIAMOND heist gone helter-skelter, the rough and tumble world of bare knuckle boxing, a colorful Irish gypsy and ...a dog. Writer-director Guy Ritchie's highly anticipated crime comedy "Snatch" is a rollicking ride through London's gangster world, the bustling diamond district and a rowdy gypsy camp. Superstar Brad Pitt and acclaimed character actor Benicio Del Toro lead the stellar cast.

Diamond thief

In the film, diamond thief and courier Franky Four Fingers (Del Toro) arrives in London en route to New York to deliver a huge diamond to boss Avi (Dennis Farina). In his mission to offload smaller stones to Avi's cousin, Doug 'The Head' (Mike Reid) and other local Hatton Garden jewelers, he is tempted into placing a bet on an illegal boxing bout by Boris 'The Blade' (Race Sherbedgia).

Little does he know that Boris has set him up—and local pawnshop owners Vinny (Robbie Gee) and Sol (Lennie James), along with their rather plump getaway driver, Tyrone (Ace) are to rob him at the bookies.

Meanwhile, novice unlicensed boxing promoters Turkish (Jason Statham) and his business partner Tommy (Stephen Graham) move into the 'big time' through a fight with local kingpin villain, boxing promoter and pig farm owner, Brick Top (Alan Ford).

CAST of "Snatch," a film about London villainy with a comic twist.

But when the novice's fighter is knocked out by Mickey O'Neil (Brad Pitt), a wildcard Irish gypsy boxer, the boys convince him to fight in their boxer's place in Brick Top's rigged match.

Highly unreliable

Unfortunately, Mickey proves to be highly unreliable and the duo find themselves in trouble as the fearless fighter refuses to "go down in the fourth" as planned. Luckily, the gypsy's prowess and technique impress Brick Top—saving all three from the fate of his pig farm.

The catch is, Mickey has to fight again—and has to get it right this time—since Brick Top is more than happy to use brutality and bloodshed to make his point.

In New York, news that Franky has been waylaid by the bookies sends Avi into a tailspin and he and his henchman hop on a plane to London. They hire local legend, 'Bullet Tooth' Tony (Vinnie Jones) to find Franky and the diamond. The sorry fate of the diamond courier is soon discovered and the hunt for the missing stone launches everyone into a madcap spiral which threatens to spin out of control.

Double-crossing, double-bluffing and double-dealing abound as various parties pursue personal agendas—all of them illegal, some of them farcical and most of them destined to end in blood, pain and retribution. As plans go haywire and tempers fray, dogs, diamonds, caravans, boxers and assorted weaponry get swept up into a chaotic free-for-all.

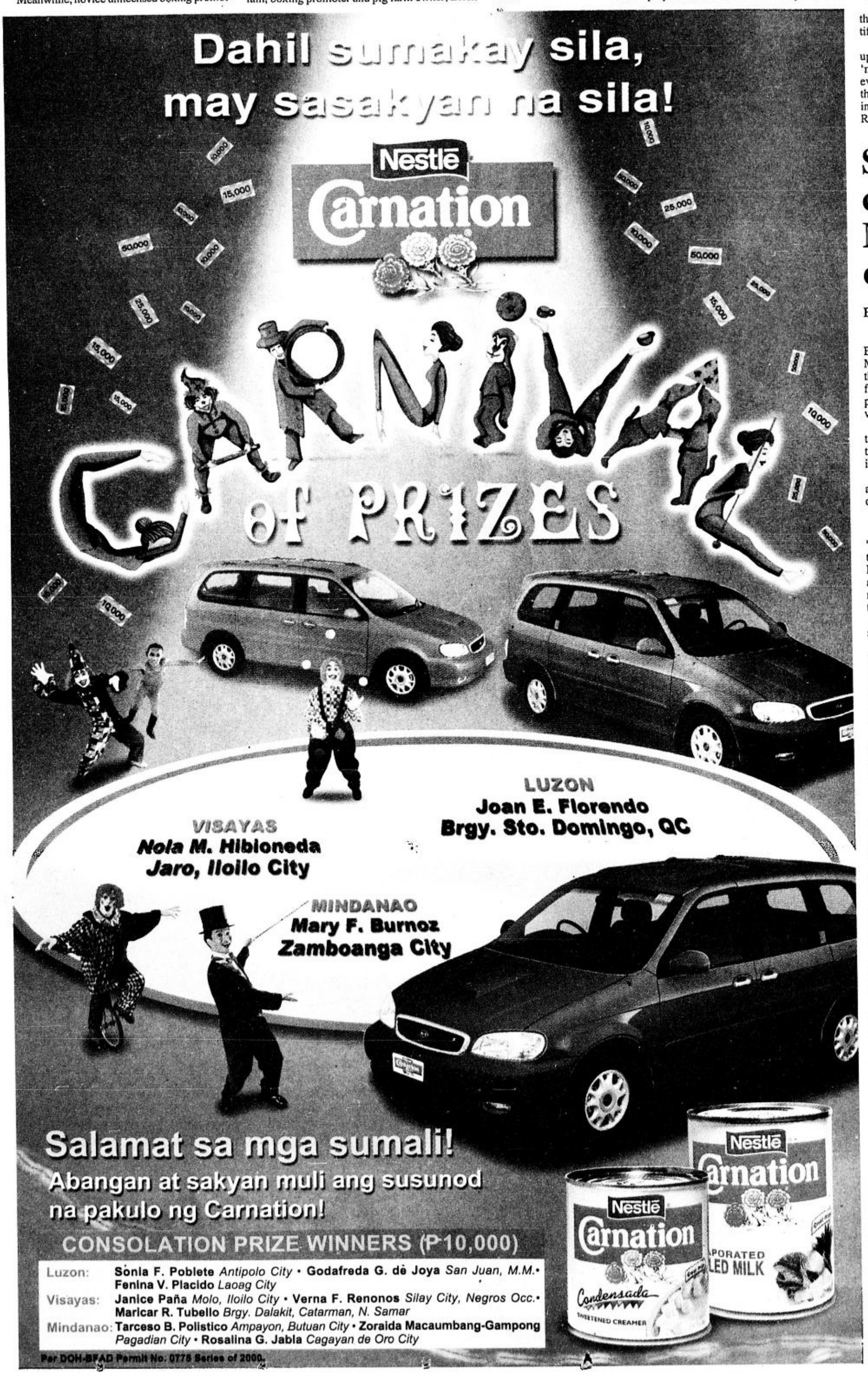
Seedy underworld

According to Guy Ritchie, "Snatch" is not a sequel to his hip gangster film "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" in which a group of friends unwittingly get mixed up in a seedy underworld of drugs, crime and violence. In "Snatch," the players *are* the underworld, but it is London villainy with a comic twist.

"The film is more than just gangster madcap. It's a diamond heist gone wrong, fixed boxing matches, a New York Mafia boss and an Irish gypsy-turned-prize fighter, fighting only to win his mother a new caravan. Plus, a temperamental dog—a film full of helter-skelter twists," says producer Matthew Vaughn.

The roller coaster storylines, combined with the gritty, realistic casting gives the film a quantified 'edge'.

"What started as a blood-rich thriller ended up as a gangster-comedy on set. Fast-paced, 'move-it-quick' and with no fat on it whatsoever. I love playing around with dialogue—so this film has some of the material I wanted to put into my first film but couldn't get in," concludes Ritchie.



Screenwriters contribute to MMFF's box-office success

BY RAMON REY E. BAYRON

(Conclusion)

EVEN more quizzical was the performance at the Metro filmfest of "Spirit Warriors," penned by the ever dependable Roy Iglesias. Now that his fantasy-horror film has done extremely well, expect Mr. Iglesias to be among the producers' favorite screenwriters in the coming months.

We commend Iglesias for giving enough attention to detail and story in his screenplay, although he could have had an easier time churning out another mindless scary movie.

For taking the kids seriously, Mr. Iglesias has attracted even adults to the theaters to the tune of P9 million on the first day of the MMFF.

Modest intentions

Director-writer Jose Javier Reyes penned "Sugatang Puso" perhaps with only modest intentions, but in the process redefined drama in Philippine cinema with a flow and treatment characterized by an almost deafening silence and nearly European sensibilities, a welcome departure from the highstrung and cry-a-river-every-10-minutes style that has been the practice here since time immemorial.

Add to that Javier Reyes' penchant for realistic dialogue and one gets the rare chance of experiencing a brilliant Filipino screenplay at work. His "stubborn" belief that the *masa* actually prefer intelligent dramas rewarded the movie with first-day earnings of P2 million +, a decent showing by industry standards.

And then there is the triumvirate of Laurice Guillen, Shaira Mella-Salvador and Raymond Lee, the hearts, souls and brains behind the most successful Filipino religious film, "Tanging Yaman."

Merits

By now, every critic in town has already given his "objective appreciation" of the film's merits, but what is unknown to the hordes of people who fell under the film's spell is that "Tanging Yaman's" greatest achievement is none other than the fact that it has actually been made and shown commercially.

Before "Tanging Yaman," themes and genres that dealt with the divine were farthest from the minds of local producers—bar one, Star Cinema.

However, before the cameras started rolling, director Guillen had to collaborate and revise the material several times along with Salvador and Lee.

The wisdom of this practice is evident in the resulting screenplay of "Tanging Yaman," one that speaks and visualizes the language and lifestyle of the times, effectively bringing its audience right inside the homes and lives of a number of typical Filipino families and, in the process, sets a high moral tone.

In the hands of less gifted screenwriters, the material could have easily turned dated and dogmatic, rather than involving and inspiring, which "Tanging Yaman" is.

Dramatic vehicles

Now, some producers themselves are asking their sexy stars to limit if not totally drop their sexy image and are offering instead more dramatic vehicles for their talents, just so that they can trek the road "Tanging Yaman" has opened up. Bravo, Laurice Guillen, Shaira Mella-Salvador and Raymond Lee!

So, the next time you see a hit Tagalog movie, remember, the film's success is not just to the credit of the lead stars or the director, because a film is basically a story, and stories are what screenwriters write.

What about the persistent predictions regarding the Filipino film industry's imminent death? With screenwriters such as the ones mentioned above, not this year, or the year after that, or the one after that—!

Ma-Yi shows how to survive in New York's teeming theater jungle

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

NEW YORK CITY is a melting pot of cultures, Chinese opera being performed next door to a small theater showcasing folk dancers from Kiev—and the Ma-Yi Filipino-American theater company.

Recently, we caught up with Ma-Yi's executive director, banker, realtor and actor Jorge Ortoll, and he filled us in on the company's 12-year foray into the teeming theater jungle of the Big Apple.

Tribute

That it has survived for 12 years is already a tribute to Ma-Yi's endurance and determination, since New York is littered with the bones of many big and small ethnic theater groups that have expired from lack of talent or business savvy.

It's Jorge who provides much of the second element at Ma-Yi, and the best proof of the effectiveness of his financial stewardship of the company is the fact that, unlike some of its fellow-starters over a decade ago, Ma-Yi is still around—the little Fil-Am theater company that could, and can, and will get its unique statements heard above New York's cacophany of voices.

Low point

Jorge joined Ma-Yi in '91, a low point in the then fledgling theater group's life.

"There were only a few people in the audience, and it broke my heart," Jorge recalls. "That's when I decided to help out in marketing and audience development.

"To maximize our seat-filling capabilities, we sold not just individual tickets, but entire performances. On slow weekdays, we offered group discounts to organizations. For instance, a ticket that usually went for $19 would be discounted down to $9. That helped us get better houses for the 24 performances per production that we stage.

E-mail

"We also resorted to E-mail, promoting our shows with friends and urging them to tell their friends about them. And we sent out notices and told people that, if they presented the notices at the gate, they would get a discount."

Foundations and government support groups were also tapped for subsidies and grants. The process is a very tedious one, but Jorge's stick-to-it-iveness has paid off, and the program of Ma-Yi's most recent production, Han Ong's "Middle Finger," lists the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Rockefeller Foundation and Fund for Small Theaters among its benefactors.

This support has become essential, since Ma-Yi can no longer recover its rising production costs on its ticket income alone.

Highlights

Highlights of Ma-Yi's most recent theater seasons include artistic director Ralph Peña's "Flipzoids," starring Ching Valdes-Aran, who won an Obie award for her performance in the play, and a season of Rockefeller Foundation "Genius" Award winner Han Ong's plays.

Reviews of Ma-Yi's productions have been encouraging. Excerpts: "'Portrait of the Artist as Filipino' is one of the 20 best shows of the 1997-1998 theatrical season." (Village Voice)

"Vera's adaptation of 'Mother Courage' is breathtakingly adept, perhaps even rivaling the original in craftsmanship and poignancy." (Show Business)

Alienation

"'Flipzoids' is nothing less than a stylish and often sharp portrayal of the confusing alienation many Filipino Americans feel. Anchored by the vibrant, beautiful Valdes-Aran, the cast of three work with perfect pitch." (Time Out Magazine)

But Peña and Ortoll know full well that Ma-Yi can't rest on its laurels, so they're working hard on their current season, with Han Ong's "Mysteries" or "The Watcher" scheduled for May-June, a possible performance tour here in July, "The Square" in October, and perhaps Han Ong's "Swoony Planet" performed in Manila in November.

Heavy schedule

That's a heavy schedule, so Jorge is up to his forehead with work. But he's happy to be so busy, because it means that Ma-Yi is succeeding in dramatizing the Filipino-American experience for a growing audience in New York.

In fact, Jorge shares, Ma-Yi is even thinking of branching out, of providing a venue not just for Fil-Am playwrights, but also for minority Asians who haven't been able to penetrate New York's theater jungle, like playwrights from Cambodia and Laos. More pioneering work to come!

"FLIPZOIDS" by Ralph Peña.

"MOTHER COURAGE" adaptation set in Mindanao.

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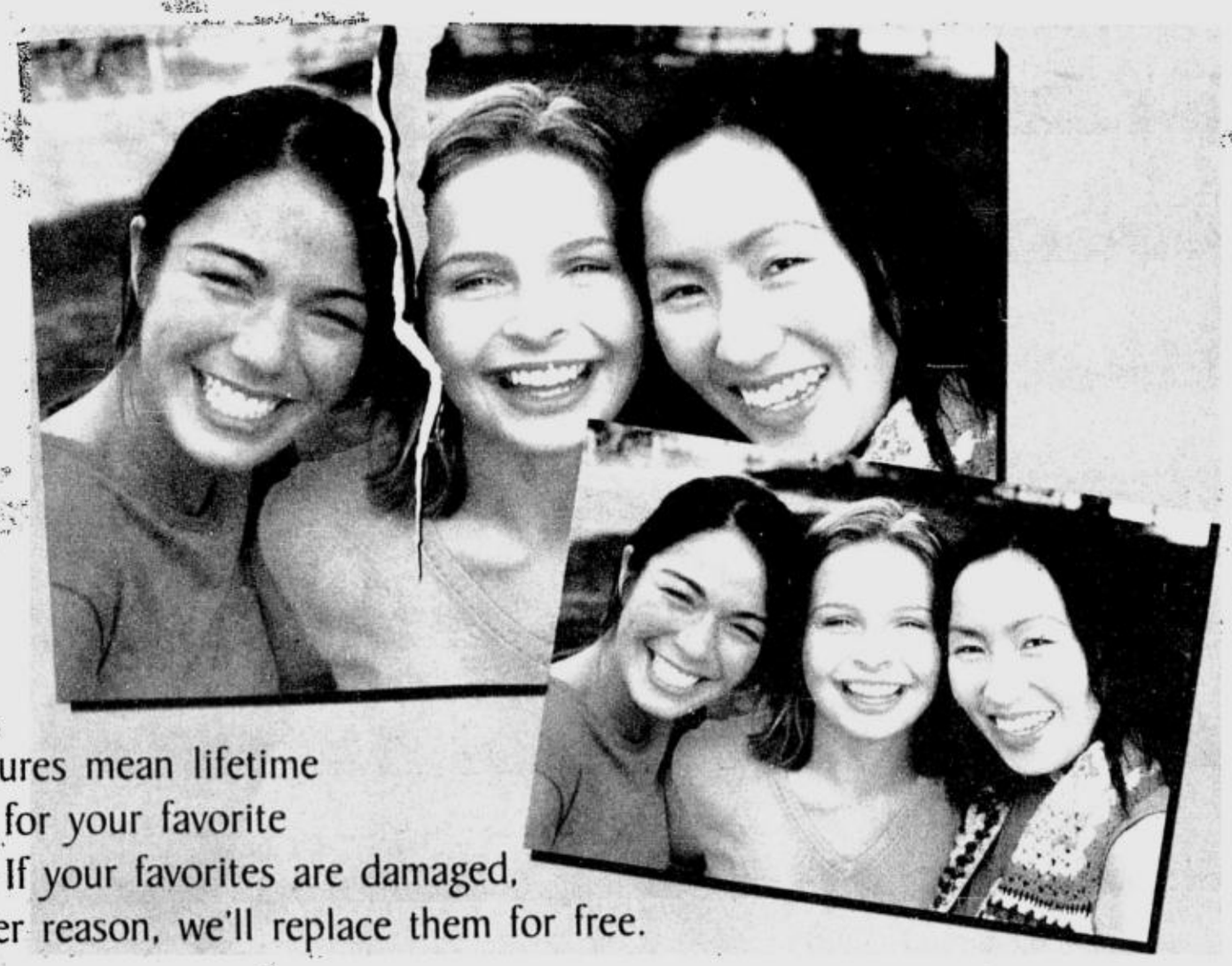

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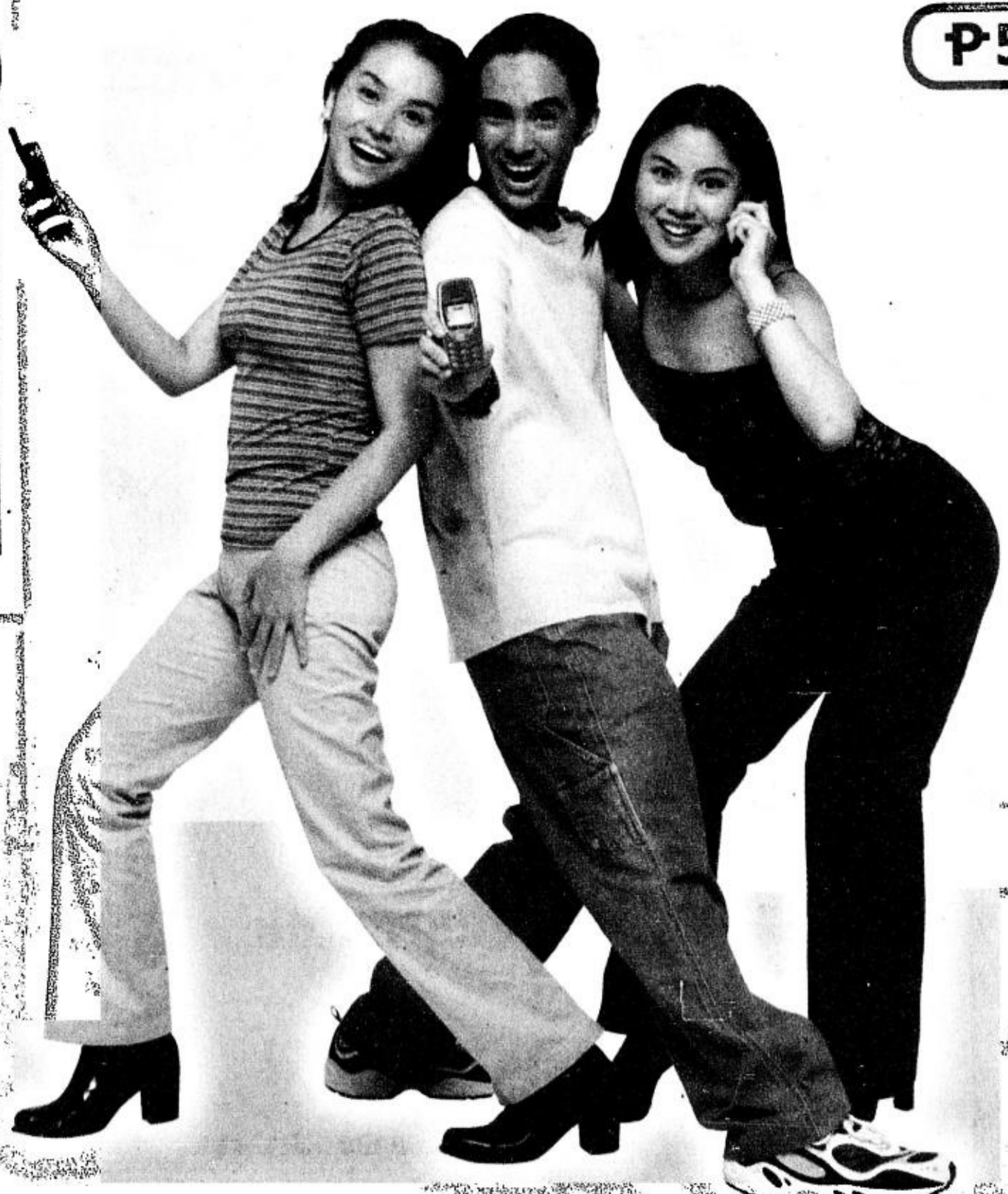

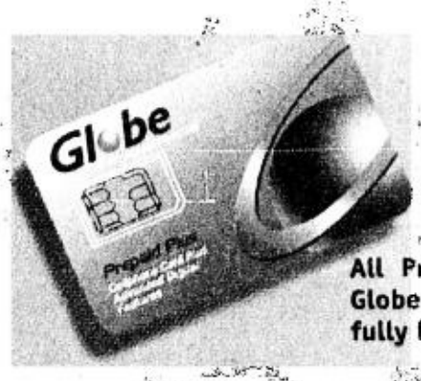

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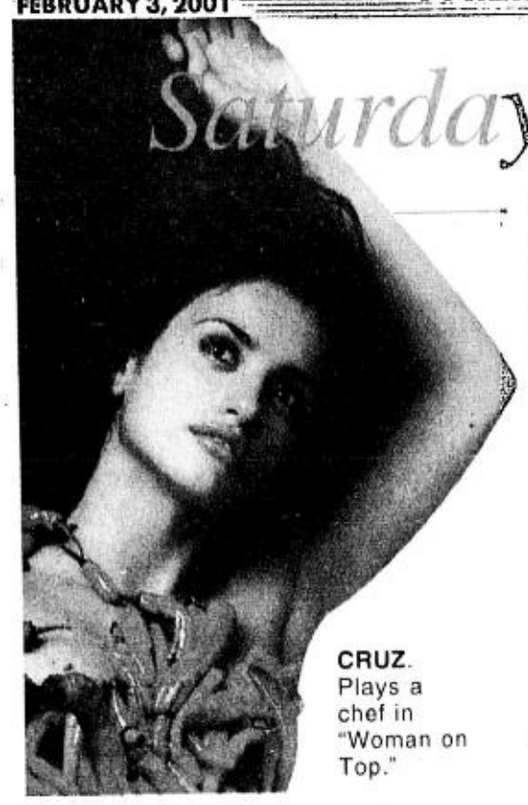

CRUZ. Plays a chef in "Woman on Top."

Room at the top for Penelope Cruz

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

LAST year in Hollywood, the biggest stellar debut was made by Spanish star Penelope Cruz in "Woman on Top." Just like Antonio Banderas one decade earlier, Cruz captivated viewers with her sultry Latin appeal, facilitating her high-profile entry into mainstream international cinema.

Latin wave

Since "Woman on Top" is playing in the Philippines later this month, let's get to know Hollywood's brightest new find, who's riding the crest of the Latin wave that's sweeping across the US entertainment scene.

Looking through her bio sheet, the most striking entry reads: "She once donated her entire paycheck for a film to Mother Teresa's sanctuary in Calcutta, after spending a week there as a volunteer."

—Isn't that something? Can you think of any other actress who could put that item in her star profile? It tells us that, aside from being a sexy film luminary who was the hottest thing to hit international screens last year, Cruz has a heart that beats for the poorest of the poor.

What a compelling combination! How did this unusual woman become what she is and get where she is now?

Compulsive performer

Cruz was born in Madrid. As a child, she was a compulsive performer, imitating the actors in TV commercials for her parents. She took ballet lessons for nine years, and also studied jazz dancing in New York.

Before moving to the States, she joined a talent agency audition at age 15, defeating 300 other girls. The agency put her on Spanish TV and in music videos. In 1991, she made her movie debut in "Laberinto Griego."

Her US acting debut was in a small role in the TV movie, "Framed," starring Timothy Dalton. Her second feature film was "Jamon, Jamon," and her third, "La Belle Epoque," won an Oscar in 1993.

Famous director

Starting with "Carne Tremula," she started working with the famous director, Pablo Almodovar. In 1998, she added Fernando Trueba to the list of important directors she's acted for. Their film was "La Niña de tus Ojes," and her performance in it enabled her to win the Best Actress trophy in the Spanish Goya film awards.

Cruz's first big international hit was Almodovar's "All About My Mother," where she played a nun afflicted with AIDS.

Her first English-language film was Stephen Frears' contemporary western, "The Hi-Lo Country," where she acted with Woody Harrelson and Billy Crudup.

Comedy

Then she starred in "Woman On Top," a comedy about a female chef with bewitching culinary skills—and Cruz's international acting career was finally on its way to the top.

After "Woman On Top" sizzled at the tills, Cruz was deluged with offers from other producers. Nothing succeeds like success, and in Hollywood success often means excess, so Cruz has had to choose only the best projects for her all-important follow-up vehicles—

Boyfriend

"All the Pretty Horses" with Matt Damon, who by the way is rumored to be her boyfriend. The film is Bob Thornton's adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's novel.

"Blow," a drug-trafficking drama, with Johnny Depp, directed by Ted Demme.

"Vanilla Sky," directed by Cameron Crowe.

And "Captain Coreli's Mandolin" with Nicolas Cage, directed by John Madden.

Busy girl! Even more impressively, Cruz's Hollywood career hasn't prevented her from sustaining her stellar career in Spain. Her latest Spanish starrer is "Volaverunt" by J.J. Bigas Luna, who first directed her in "Jamon, Jamon."

Favorite

What is it about Penelope Cruz that has made her a favorite of Spanish and American directors? Fina Torres, who directed "Woman On Top," explains: "When I read the script, I said to myself that the only actress I knew in the world who could play the title character perfectly was Penelope.

"She has something of Audrey Hepburn, mixed with the sensual quality of a Latin woman. She's also very spiritual, which is another key element of the character—and always elegant."

For her part, Cruz feels particularly attuned to her character and the film. She shares, "I always wanted to do a movie like this because it's about magic. In food, love, sex and friendship, magic is there and you just have to be able to see it. It's not there all the time, but when it is, it's amazing!"

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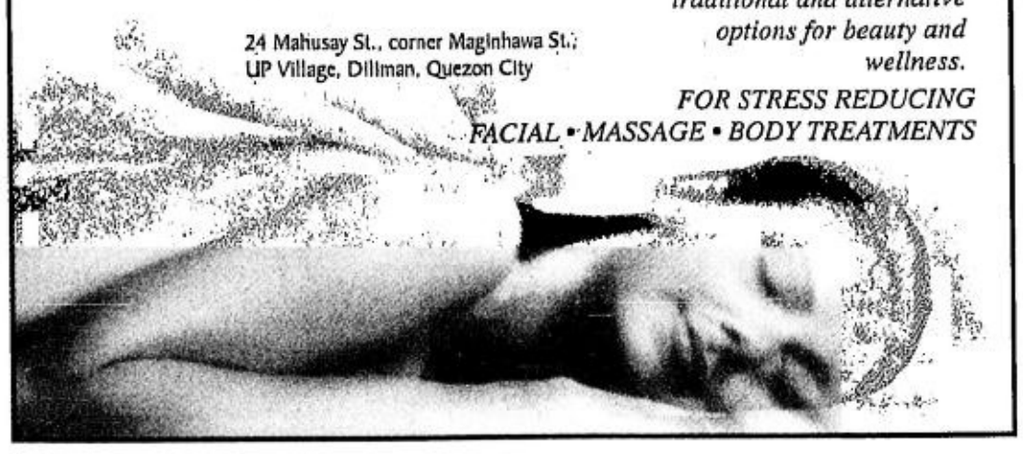

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Some street parliamentarians' favorite movies

BY BEHN CERVANTES

(Conclusion)

A DAY later, I accept an invitation from Boy and Maria Montelibano to take a day's respite in their rustic hideaway in peaceful Dolores, Mount Banahaw.

Secret powers

It is the center of the religious group called Rosa Mistica, a tightly knit association of people who believe in the secret powers of the mount, as well as the basic goodness of humanity. It is indeed a fine escape from the travails of contemporary Philippines and the incessant need to march up and down the streets.

No sooner had we driven out of the polluted metropolis called Greater Manila when Boy gets a call that they had visitors in their resthouse. One of them is Allan Bautista, a film and stage actor who worked with me in "Pagsambang Bayan" and "Sigaw ng Bayan" as well as "Sobresaltos."

The first two plays were restaged just months before Edsa, so proletarian theater indeed they were. Allan took a career risk accepting the incendiary roles of Andres Bonifacio and the conscientized priest in Bonifacio Ilagan's award-winning plays. In the last, a suspense comedy play by Angustias Bello, he played a guerrilla during the Japanese Occupation.

We hadn't seen each other since then.

Rallies

After a tight *abrazo* and the usual howdees, I inform Allan that, yes, we were back in the streets and could I call on him for future rallies? "Why not, but am I not too old to be Andres Bonifacio?" Allan joshes.

RAMOS. The former First Daughter likes "Message in a Bottle," a simple but uplifting love story.

Indeed, those streaks of gray hair would not be apropos for the youngish hero of the Katipunan. Nevertheless, I maximized his presence and asked him what his favorite movies were.

"Wow, you got me there. I can't come up with an answer right off." I gave him time to think about it as I recalled the "Sigaw ng Bayan" presentation in the Araneta Coliseum in 1983 that was sponsored by the KMU. That had a huge cast of UP Rep alumni and KMU workers/members.

A pretty young Sigma Deltan named Ces Oreña was a member of the acting ensemble. Unfortunately, she had to quit because her boyfriend, a jealous Upsilonian, made it difficult for her. She is now a successful television journalist, Ces Drilon of "People." I guess Rock Drilon, her painter husband, allows her to expand her creative wings much more than that college beau did, thank goodness.

When we get together again, I ask Allan if he has made his choice. He has.

Martial artist

" 'The Matrix.' Why? *Wala.* I am a martial artist, so I identified with the martial fight scenes. I admired the technology used. It was something new. It had some spiritual questions that asked the meaning of life, etc. That was very interesting. Above all, it was entertaining.

" 'Raiders of the Lost Ark.' Again, I enjoyed the action scenes as well as the spirit of adventure. Basically, I loved it for its entertainment value. Furthermore, I follow directors. Spielberg is one of them.

" 'The Sixth Sense.' The director, M. Night Shyamalan, tells a story and twists the ending. I also follow the movies of Brad Pitt, so I watched and thoroughly enjoyed 'The Fight Club.'"

Back in Manila after a few days, there is another meeting for still another rally in front of the Senate where the impeachment process is taking place. Jo Ramos, musician and former First Daughter, drops by with her well-behaved son, Sergio. I ask her to cite her favorite films. Her reply:

" 'The Toy Story.' I enjoyed the humor, the tight scripting. I was bowled over by the creative use of animation.

" 'Jesus of Nazareth.' The original version, in black and white, because it showed everything we had to know about the story of Christ's life on earth.

" 'Message in a Bottle.' It had mystery and the drama of a simple love story that uplifted your spirit."

Maan Hontiveros, a First Quarter Storm activist and Edsa alumna, is still going strong after 30 years. Her choices were the following:

" 'Cinema Paradiso.' Why? It was a wonderful story of a boy whose life is completely changed by a relationship based on his love for cinema.

" 'Central Station.' Here, an innocent boy helps a woman discover how bad her life has been after being touched by the purity of the boy, played by a talent who was acting for the very first time.

" 'Two Daughters' by Satyajit Ray. The themes of the women's lives were very touching. The cinematography was really spectacular. You, what are your favorite films?"

Neo-realist treatment

The films that most affected me were: "Battle of Algiers" by Carlo Pontecorvo. I saw that documentary-like film for five straight days and repeated a viewing each time. The neo-realist treatment, the theme and the valiant struggle of the revolutionaries were apropos to the 1971 Philippine scene.

"They Shoot Horses, Don't They?," starring an earnest Jane Fonda, also had a personal effect on me, as did "Julia" and "Isadora." Vanessa Redgrave is a real favorite and a cinematic icon of mine.

Of course, I have to include the very first film I remember seeing as a kid. It was also my introduction to the meaning and embodiment of romance. The film? "Casablanca"—of course!

Richard Merk thrives in the world of jazz

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

DURING his bachelor years, Richard Merk had many dreams—to come out with a CD, two, to topbill a concert in Las Vegas, and to put up a jazz bar.

Confident

Which of these dreams has materialized?

Last year, Richard decided to produce a jazz album, confident that a record company would be interested in distributing it. The first person he wanted to listen to the album was good friend Gabby Lopez. Richard left a copy of his CD in Gabby's office.

It turned out that Charo Santos-Cancio had a better deal to offer. She had been wanting to create a label exclusively catering to jazz music, and Richard's album fit the concept, marking the birth of the Premium label for Star Records.

Charo requested Richard to add one more song, an Original Pilipino Music (OPM) number, in keeping with Star record's policy of showcasing homegrown compositions.

The request was easily granted with the inclusion of "You" by Gerry Paraiso, who died of cancer last December.

Emotionally charged

Richard sees jazz as a very emotionally charged kind of music, which is free flowing when sung. "Overdoing it may cause displeasure. I am most cautious not to become a victim of this. *Kung hihirapan mo ay baka malito na sila*," he says.

For the CD, Richard chose songs with popular appeal—"Hello," "Every Breath You Take (the carrier cut)," "Two For The Road," "My Cherie Amour," "Fallin'," and "For Once in my Life."

Two songs that have special meaning for Richard are "I Offer My Life" and "Fallin'."

MERK. A dream fulfilled.

"I have experienced the harsh side of life but never lost faith in the Almighty. He knew I was lost and He put me back on the right track. "I Offer My Life" is an inspiring piece to remind everyone that God is the source of our strength and He will never abandon us in times of misery.

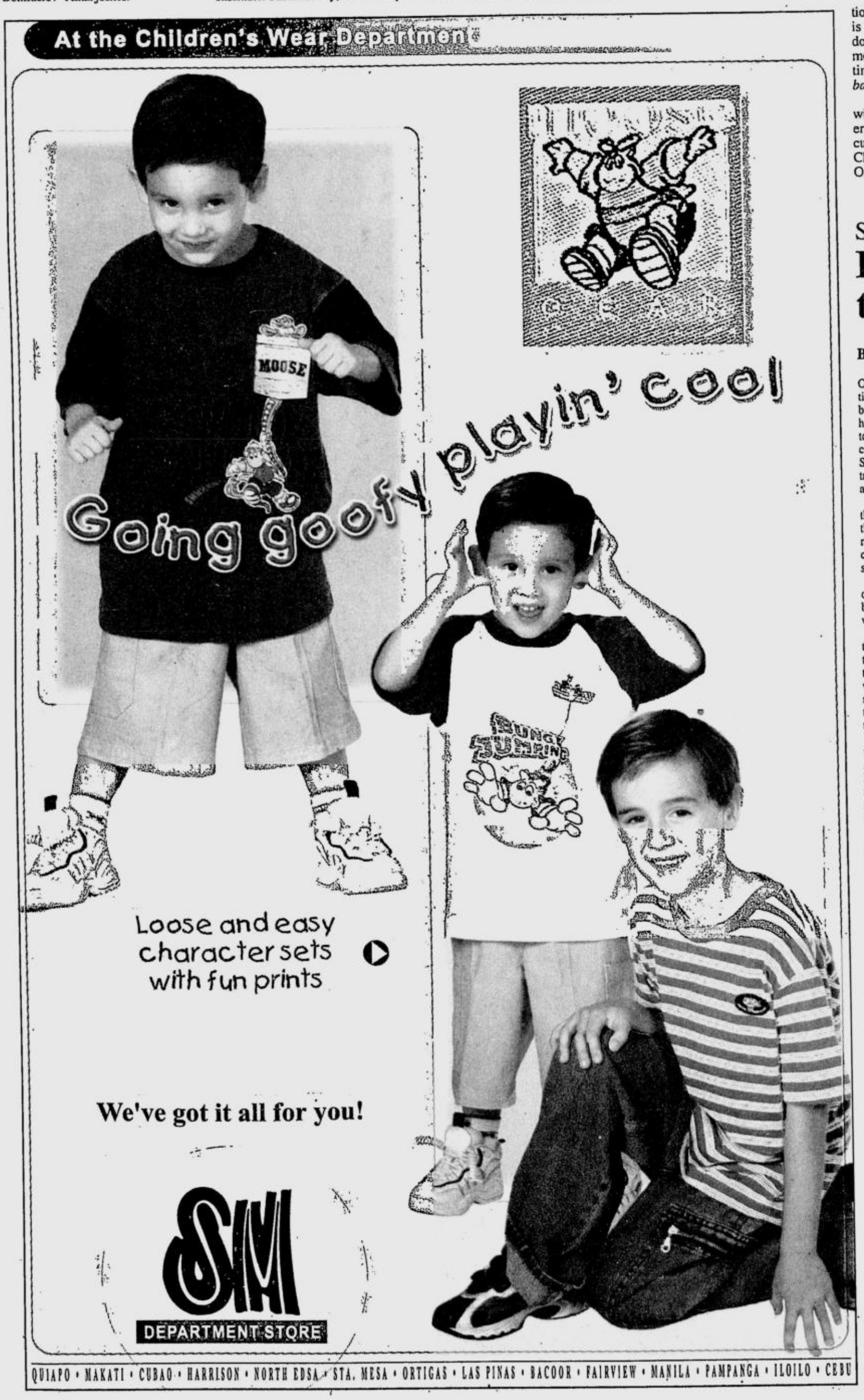
Special song

"Fallin," on the other hand, is a special song Richard lovingly dedicates to his wife Roni, who is also a jazz enthusiast.

Richard has extensively toured Asia as well as Europe and the Middle East. His songs have brought joy to Filipinos working abroad, but he doesn't want to confine his talent only to Filipino communities.

While Richard busies himself promoting "Jazz In Time" Star Records has given him the go signal to start preparing materials for his next project, a Christmas jazz collection. Why so early?

"I believe in planning. Pre-production will begin in March and I hope to make the album available to the public by August. Christmas albums have limited selling power *kaya dapat maaga ang* release," Richard explains.



SWITCHING CHANNELS

Battle for survival in the Australian outback

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

ONE show is credited for toppling long-time US TV top rater "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" from the top of the heap. That show is "Survivor," the true-to-life adventure series that featured 16 castaways on a remote island on the South China Sea. The group had to face tropical insects, sea snakes and wild rats and work together to survive.

Each week, however, one member of the group was bumped off by a vote of the surviving members until only two remained. Then the last seven eliminated contestants decided who of the two should win the top prize of $ 1 million.

The show's final episode attracted over 50 million viewers and, like any blockbuster movie, plans for a sequel were put into place right away.

The result is "Survivor 2: The Australian Outback." This time the 16 contestants were left stranded in the Australian Outback where they had to deal with dry, searing heat and dangerous terrain that included deep rock canyons, thunderous waterfalls and vast eucalyptus forests.

Last Monday, we were invited to watch the live telecast of the show on AXN during a press briefing at the Pen. Now we understand why the series was such a hit in the US. It's got all the elements necessary for a hit – adventure, suspense, drama, humor, great scenery!

We were amazed at the technical support by way of cameras and microphones that were used by the production staff.. We were reminded of the movie "Truman," where Jim Carrey's every move was televised.

Since it ran for close to an hour, "Survivor 2" had to be tightly edited. Considering how much footage the crew must have gotten, the final product looked like a mini-version of "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

We look forward to the next episodes (the second one aired yesterday), which will be aired every Friday at 10 p.m. up to April 20 on AXN

Love, 'South Park' style

If you have a funny love story to share, Channel V Philippines, the official home channel of "South Park" in the Philippines, invites you to mail your stories to PO Box 1693, Makati City, e-mail channelv@i-next.net or fax 848-2911. VJs will be reading the funniest stories on the air every day until Feb. 16. There are also exclusive "South Park" gift packs including Kenny, Cartman, Stan, Kyle, Chef, and Terrance and Philip dolls to be won.

People will ask, of course, if love exists in South Park, where acting weird is a way of life for people like its four not-so-normal third graders and a bunch of queer townsfolk.

The answer is yes. One only needs to mention love-struck Chef who breaks into a love song when the boys ask him questions about love. Then there's Stan, who's supposed to be in love with Wendy Testaburger and throws up every time Wendy is around. That's weird, alright.

DONITA. Always on the go.

Another busy year for Donita

Over at MTV, VJ Donita Rose just renewed her contract for another year. Donita looks forward to another busy year with the music channel, hosting "MTV's Most Wanted" and "Fresh," among other assignments, and has signed up to do several commercials for a still unnamed local product.

The VJ is in great demand as an endorser probably because she typifies the modern Filipina, who's always on the go trying to make a difference in whatever field of endeavor she chooses. Though she's one of the prettiest endorsers around, people know that she has something more than her beauty going for her.

That explains why 2000 was such a good year for her. She flew to such places as the USA, Guam, Hong Kong, Malaysia, China, Japan and UK on various assignments like hosting the First Chinese Music Video Choice Awards in Beijing, the Asian TV Awards, and being a muse in the International Polo Competition in London, where she met her majesty, Queen Elizabeth.

She took part in a seven-day USA Jet Tour for a popular drink and renewed her contract with Globe Gentext as official spokesperon. She also appeared in a 13-week TV miniseries, "Money," in Singapore.

Because of her commitments abroad, Donita has had to turn down many offers to do TV shows and movies. She's hoping her manager, Angeli Valenciano, can work out a movie deal because she's been wanting to do a major film locally.

Another priority for her this year is a serious look at her financial position. Although she's not the type who squanders her earnings, she realizes that it's time to make an honest-to-goodness financial plan for her future. As a member of a religious group, she tithes part of her earnings—that's how committed she is to her spiritual growth. Angeli shares that Donita is very generous with her tithing and has reaped material benefits from her generosity. The best proof is the amount of work she's been getting.

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Coming full circle at Edsa

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

FROM Edsa I to Edsa Dos, we've come full circle. At the rallies last month, I saw faces from the past like Nani Perez, Joe Concepcion, Jaime and Bea Zobel de Ayala, Frank Drilon, Christian and Winnie Monsod, Joey Lina, Frank Chavez, Cory Aquino and daughter Kris, Peping and Tingting Cojuangco and their children Mikee and China.

Negotiators

I missed the faces of Butz Aquino and Reli German, our negotiators during Edsa I, and Jojo Binay. Fe Zamora and I covered them for Tita Eggie Apostol's Mr. & Ms, which eventually became the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The younger people today are more emotional in their display of patriotism and they are very intense. It worked. And, thanks to Globe and Smart mass texting, it became a phenomenon. (In Malaysia, texting is now prohibited after they learned about the miracle of Edsa Dos.)

This is a year of realism and perhaps, even caution. But in every recession, there is a renaissance and I feel that we are taking that turn now under the new leadership. Remarkable talents should be unfazed by the nervous market. Creativity should not be depressed, although the economy is.

Creativity

The market is still looking for superior originality and creativity. It agrees that creativity is a good marketing strategy.

Now, the market is picking up just two weeks after Edsa Dos, thanks to "accidental hero" Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson of Ilocos Sur, the man of the hour. Maybe because God used a thief to expose a bigger thief, thus accidentally revealing a bigger economic crime.

In the rallies that preceded Edsa Dos, I would often photograph Singson addressing the crowd, wearing no bulletproof vest. He had given himself up to God. He was aware that danger lurked, but he was no longer afraid.

NGOs

Just recently, he was asked if he would run for a government post again, and he said no. He said he would instead be working with NGOs. He's a changed man, an accidental hero who credits all the people present at Edsa Dos as the real heroes.

Let me contribute my share of hosannas for the other God-inspired witnesses: Emma Lim, Menchu Itchon, Atty. Jazmin Banal and, of course, Clarissa Ocampo, Nonoy Yulo, Perfecto Yasay and the unshakable Ruben Almadro, whose testimony the defense lawyers could not crush.

Also, to the private and public prosecutors led by Rep. Joker Arroyo and the "perfect 10" senators, the tireless gallery watchers, the students and Senate demonstrators, former Speaker Manny Villar, Fathers Nico Bautista and Robert Reyes, and the hundreds of thousands who participated in our latest phenomenal peaceful revolution.

PEOPLE POWER II. From left, Sen. Teofisto Guingona, former Pres. Fidel Ramos and Cory Aquino, Cardinal Sin, Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and Sen. Franklin Drilon join forces, marking a historic moment at the Edsa Shrine.

ARTISTS' striking display of unity for the country.

Food and billiards

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

CHEF Rox and I grew up on the UP Diliman campus. We had a lot of things in common: We both enjoyed taking the jeep to Cubao to trip on Ma Mon Luk's *mami* and *siopao*. We were close competitors in the university swimming team and eventually transferred to the more popular basketball team.

Friendly rivalry

That game stopped when our hand and shoulder fakes dwindled down to "eyebrow fakes." Today, apart from our love for food, we have turned to billiards as our present form of friendly rivalry.

We play all over the metropolis. What keeps us coming back to a place, apart from the nice tables, is the food. Among the nicest places to play billiards in are Pool House (Brunswick tables) along Aurora blvd., between St. Paul and Broadway Centrum; Paeng's at Robinsons Galleria; Coronado on Pasay rd., and Cue Zone (also Brunswick tables) along Tomas Morato.

Pool House has an interesting menu but I have never tried its food. Stanley is part owner of the place and has a hidden passion for creating dishes. Paeng's has the popular Magoo's Pizza. But among all of them, Cue Zone has the most interesting menu. At times, I find myself wanting to go back for the food, rather than the beautiful pool tables.

Delicious

Jonathan Jota was the "architect" of their menu. A talented young chef, he has set up a very interesting menu that is unique. Some of the items that I've tried are his Crunchy Squid Tentacles with a delicious *taba ng talangka* sauce. A must, it is different from your usual crispy calamares.

I go back to this place for its Black Pasta—the best-tasting I have tried in my life. It is pitch-black fettuccine cooked al dente, with a tinge of garlic flavor and topped with white and black squid rings.

I crave for this dish. It would be a winner in any Italian restaurant. It is a given that, whenever we play, we have to order this dish. In fact, this place could be called the Black Pasta Restaurant and Billiards!

Promotion

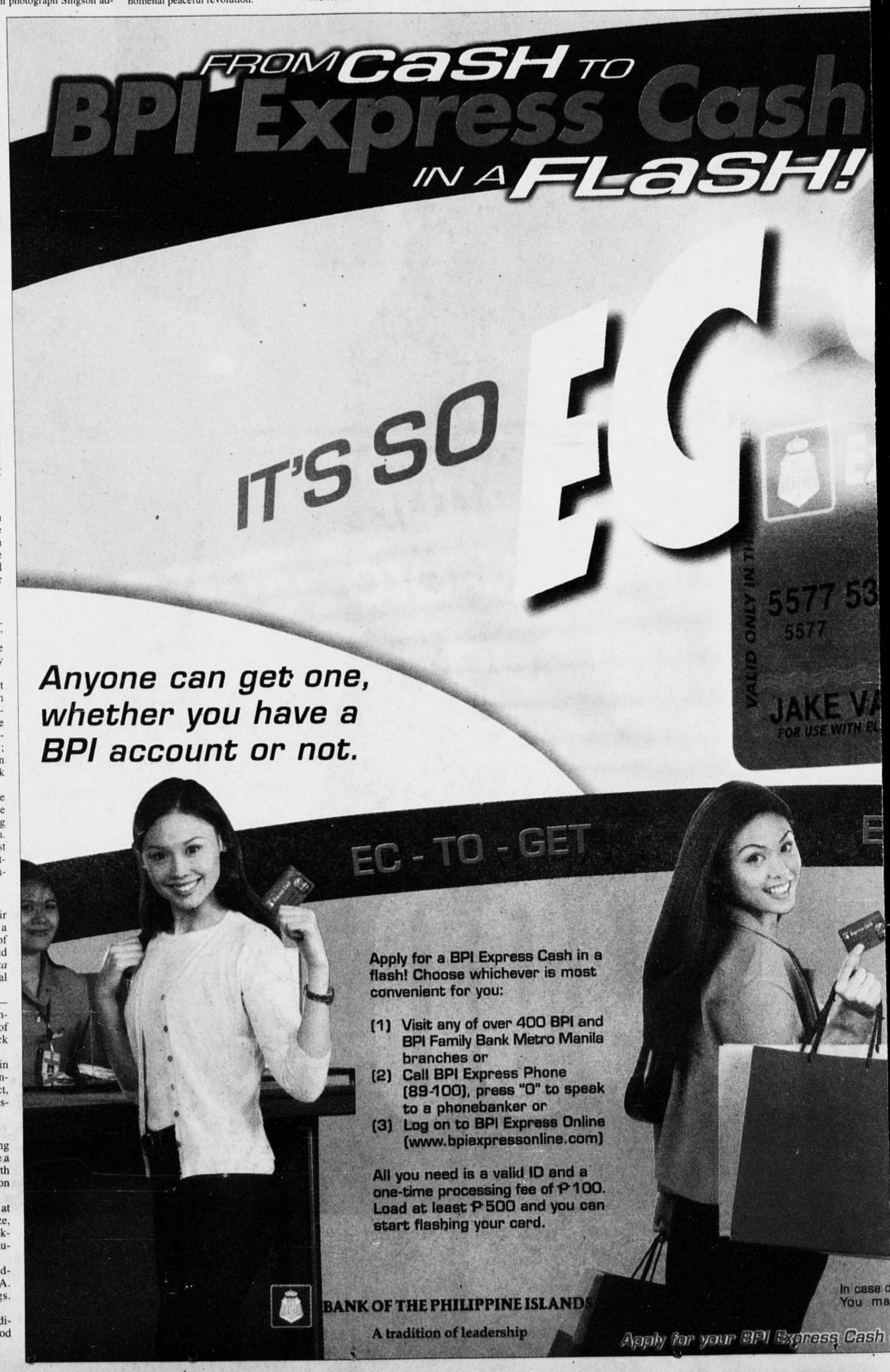
We've tried the carbonara—it's nice-tasting but a bit too creamy. At the moment, they have a promotion: A purchase of a promo card worth P300 entitles you to a "buy one, take one" on about 15 to 20 items. It's a steal.

Chef Rox and I continue our competition at Cue Zone. Instead of downing bottles of booze, it's the Black Pasta we enjoy. Rox is also looking around for ideas for his brand-new restaurant around the Morato area.

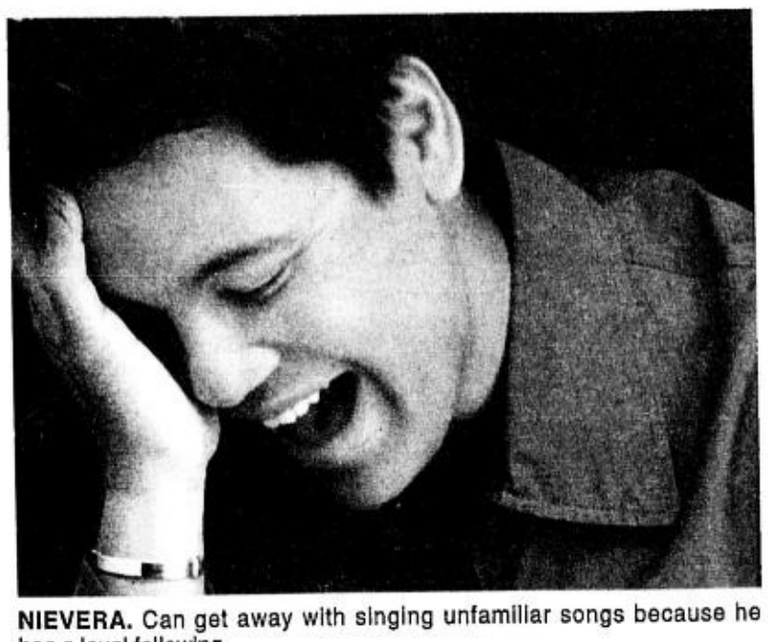
Cue Zone is on the third floor of a building along Morato, almost at the corner of A. Roces, right across Dimsum and Dumplings. A must!

I am at present in Bangkok getting ingredients for my outlets. I'll tell you what new food items I come across. I love my work!

Happy eating!



Martin Nievera heats up Bacolod City



NIEVERA. Can get away with singing unfamiliar songs because he has a loyal following.

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

LAST year, we witnessed Martin Nievera heat up Baguio City with an electrifying performance at the St. Louis University gym, as part of his "Crossover XVII Live Tour." The concert convinced us that Martin's following extended beyond Metro Manila.

Owners

The Villars, owners of the Crossover radio stations, must have liked Martin because they have brought him back for an encore in "Crossover XVIII: The Aftershock." XVIII stands for the singer's 18 years as a performer while "aftershock" refers to the reverberations of the earthshaking events that happened in Martin's life last year. They include the annulment of his marriage and the upsurge in the number of concerts that he did.

Last weekend, Martin brought his act to the De La Salle University Coliseum Bacolod City. It was the third in a series of live shows. One more will hit Manila today at 8 p.m. at the Ultra Football Field, and the series culminates in Baguio City on Feb. 10.

The air-conditioning was not working full blast at the De La Salle Coliseum but the heat was not oppressive. On the contrary, it energized the estimated 7,000 people who greeted Martin's numbers with loud applause and shrieks. Besides, what's a live concert without a little discomfort?

Martin himself was sweating profusely but it was just what he needed to give a riveting performance. Initially, the singer seemed to mind the malfunctioning air-conditioner but that was soon forgotten as he heard the crowd's reaction.

Most of the numbers were new but Martin got the most applause when he sang his old signature songs. Still, when he started singing old standards like "The Very Thought of You," "Stardust" and "What Kind of Fool Am I," he only got polite applause. That was understandable since most of the audience members were students.

But Martin can get away with singing unfamiliar songs because he has a loyal following. It's also the singer's way of introducing his fans to a new repertoire. One example of his ability to control the crowd was when he requested the members of the audience to stand up, hold each other's hands and keep silent for 30 seconds. This, after doing a spiel on the important events that happened at the Edsa shrine.

Silence

Complete silence in a stadium with 7,000 excited fans? Impossible, we thought. But the audience really kept silent. When not a sound could be heard, he started singing the "Our Father" followed by "I Believe." He could actually have asked for silence till he finished the number but he settled for half a minute.

Another high point of the concert was the appearance of Regine Velasquez, who sang only three songs, two of them duets with Martin, and had the audience clamoring for more. Her numbers were really showstoppers, the term used on Broadway when a performer literally stops the show because he or she is so good.

Comedian Jon Santos came as President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, complete with his own platform. The jokes were mostly about the new president's stature, and we mean that in the physical sense. Leave it to Jon to be current with his jokes. We understand he impersonated Erap during the Davao and Cebu shows and he had to write a new script while resting in a hospital bed while recovering from exhaustion, to be more topical in the Bacolod show.

The crowd knew what he was talking about and responded wildly to references to Miriam Defensor Santiago, Tessie Aquino Oreta and Sonny Osmeña, among others.

What marred Martin's performance for us was when he dropped Pops' name again and tried to get the crowd's sympathy.

At this point in his life, we feel Martin should move on and aspire for greater things. Everyone knows how hurt he still is and how much he pines for the good, old days but we would have thought the end of 2000 would also mean the end of the Martin-Pops saga.

International album

Martin should concentrate instead on projects like the ones he's announced. Martin has just signed a contract to record an international album for independent record producer Maurice Starr, who is known for his work on the albums of Boyz2Men and New Kids on the Block. In fact, a day or two after his Baguio show, Martin is scheduled to fly to the US to start recording the album.

We can't end this piece without saying something about Martin's dancing. Our comment: Leave the dancing to the Hot Legs, Martin!

TOZCA. A passion for singing, like her dad.

Tozca Camille and Rico J. Puno's special bond

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

FROM the day Tozca Camille was born 20 years ago up to the present, a special bond has existed between Rico J. Puno and his eldest daughter.

Celebrity baby

She was a celebrity baby, to begin with. Rico J. was at the peak of his singing career when he showed the whole world how proud a father he was by gracing the cover of a magazine, carrying the newborn child in his arms. A song titled "Cartada 10" was composed and dedicated to Camille.

Rico, one of Makati's most active councilors and a re-electionist, shares some fond memories of Camille's childhood and how he fared as a parent:

"I wanted my first-born to be a boy, to carry the family name. But when the ultrasound revealed it would be a girl, *tinanggap ko na rin*, praying that she would come out healthy and normal," he recalls.

The bundle of joy easily became the center of attention wherever she went. She even upstaged Lea Salonga when the proud father brought her to Joe Quirino's TV show.

"*Kasi nga ay sa sobrang puti niya at napakalusog.* She was easily recognized wherever my wife brought her. *Palagi siyang pinaghahalikan!*" Rico J. says.

Demands

The demands of his profession limited Rico's time with his children, but he made it a point to play with little Camille for at least an hour. When he went home late, he would sneak into her room to plant a kiss on her forehead. Disciplining their three daughters and only son Rox was entirely left to his wife Doris, who Rico says did a splendid job raising all of them.

"I did not encourage any of my children to be a singer like me. My daily reminder was for them to finish their schooling. In Camille's case, however, I noticed that, at age 10, she loved to sing and dance. In high school, she joined a glee club. She also wanted to try her luck on television but I thought she was not ready yet," he remembers.

What are his daughter's strong points? "She is always open to me. I don't have to ask her anything because she is always eager to tell me what happened to her during the day. She is so *makulit*, because she wants assurance that what she does is right.

"Camille is a very focused person who wants things done right away. She is a level-headed person as long as you explain the situation to her properly.

Emotional wounds

"But she can be unforgiving. I remember *noon na nagaway silang magkakapatid* over a tiny issue. Then I found out *na hindi na niya kinikibo ang mga kapatid niya.* For her, emotional wounds take a longer time to heal."

Rico never pictured himself as a perfect husband, nor is his marriage made in heaven. "It has its ups and downs and I always tell my children that they are not the cause of the problem, which is strictly between husband and wife," he says.

In the eyes of Camille, however, Rico will always be a hero despite his shortcomings.

"My dad is not a saint—he admits his mistakes, and I admire him for that. He may not be around all the time but, when we need him, he is always there to extend his support," she shares.

Her passion for singing has brought her even closer to her dad. He has finally given her the go-signal to embark on a singing career. But he has warned Camille about the evils that lurk in show business.

For exposure, Rico allows his daughter to participate in his concerts. They render a duet, aside from a solo number by Camille.

Camille loves every minute of the exposure, but more importantly, she feels so touched everytime Rico introduce her as his daughter!

COMICRelief

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fran Tarkenton, James Michener, Morgan Fairchild, Nathan Lane, Paul Sarbanes, Blythe Danner, Maitland Ward

Happy Birthday: You can take just about any idea, project or object and turn it into something great. You are creative this year and can cleverly spin your own innovative plans into action. Your concern with the environment will help you meet the necessary individuals who can help you go the extra mile. Your numbers: 7, 11, 13, 21, 29, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can make professional gains if you talk to your boss about your findings. Promotions will be yours if you have acted professionally in times of crisis.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Reading books on philosophy and self-awareness will bring about a definite change of attitude. You can influence those around you by sticking to your convictions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your curiosity will force you to do some research. Your interest in a moneymaking opportunity looks prosperous as long as you do your homework.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Romance will find you if you participate in group events. Don't be too eager to talk about yourself. Listen and you'll learn a great deal about others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Deception is apparent if you are dealing with your peers. Don't give away your secrets if you don't want them spread around. Jealousy is likely among co-workers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may want to change your direction. Don't be afraid to try something totally new. Your unique approach to your work will be appreciated by the right boss.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be too quick to make decisions regarding legal matters. You will have to go over contracts with a fine-tooth comb. However, if all pans out, you could sign a deal of a lifetime.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expect your partner to be unstable. Understanding will be a must when dealing with those you love. Give them a chance to explain the way they feel. You can probably help them by providing some tender loving care.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let love interests at work stand in the way of your performance. You need to do the best job possible if you want to hang onto your position.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Spend time making personal improvements that will help you feel better about yourself. Changes in your domestic scene will be necessary even if you don't welcome them.

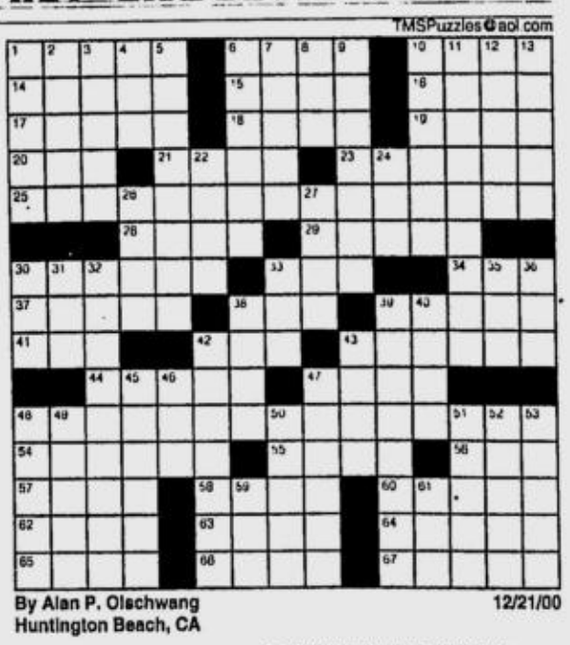
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be prepared to face opposition. Family members will not be happy with the number of hours you have been spending at work. Try to free up more of your time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't give away your secrets. You can prosper if you focus energy on your work and present your accomplishments by yourself. You need to make professional changes.

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, inquisitive and inventive. You will surprise everyone around you with your creative approach to whatever you do as well as your carefully thought-out questions. You will always be asking who, where, why and when.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Latticework for vines
6 Start of Rick Pitino quote
10 Swine
14 Darken
15 Sister/wife of Zeus
16 On the waves
17 Right-triangle ratios
18 Bridge position
19 Marriage token
20 Formicary resident
21 __-Neisse line
23 Muse of astronomy
25 Part 2 of quote
28 Sothern and Sheridan
29 Jacket feature
30 Plant pests
33 Singer Shannon
34 Classified __
37 Sulks
38 Part 3 of quote
39 Postulate
41 Stately tree
42 Participated in an 8K
43 Presumptuous
44 Tilted
47 Bard
48 Part 4 of quote
54 Only English pope
55 Civil Rights activist Parks
56 Cow's call
57 Blueprint
58 Help criminally
60 Abrade
62 Mears of auto racing
63 Arrived
64 Avid
65 Vigoda and Burrows
66 End of quote
67 Molts

DOWN
1 Ore analysis
2 Horned beast, for short
3 African language group
4 Pindar product
5 Echoes
6 Steering devices
7 Got wind (of)
8 Pause fillers
9 Instinctive
10 March
11 Mica in thin sheets
12 Bottle resident?
13 Epic tales
22 Hubbubs
24 Actor Torn
26 Enticement
27 Cordon __ (master chef)
30 Simian
31 PAC beneficiary
32 100-yard dash or marathon?
33 Put on
35 God of the lower world
36 Pen
38 Harsh cry
39 Omens
40 Trigger's lunch
42 Perform again
43 Kin of raspberries
45 Smooth, shiny lizards
46 New Zealand parrot
47 For the time being, briefly
48 Director Frank
49 Improvise
50 __ de menthe
51 Man in the mirror?
52 Well-known
53 Live wires
59 __ humbug!
61 Collegiate cheer

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
12/21/00

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	O	A	P		B	L	O	B		S	H	A	W	S
E	R	S	E		R	E	B	A		C	A	B	I	N
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F	L	I	R	T	W	I	T	H	A	N	I	D	E	A
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A	T	O	L	L		D	E	S	E	R	T			
M	I	R			S	E	L		N	I	C	E	S	T
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C	A	S	E	D		H	O	N	E		T	A	M	P

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12/21/00

ANSWER ON MONDAY

I just received my first paycheck and all the stores are calling my name. I'm so excited I forgot to reload my celfone, not to mention my wallet, too. But no more jampacked ATMs for me. I've finally figured out a better way to shop.

SMART Money

"With SMART Money, I can reload my SMART celfone and shop all I want even without cash."

Now I can walk into any store without cash and still buy what I want. All I need is my SMART Money and my SMART celfone. From the convenience of my celfone, I just load my SMART Money card through SMART Mobile Banking or at any SMART Money loading center – and I'm ready. Aside from loading call and text credits to my SMART Buddy, I can also use it to make purchases in stores that don't normally accept credit cards like bangges, fastfood chains and beauty shops. Not to mention all MasterCard Electronic establishments nationwide.

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P200 FREE!

Spend it anyway you want!

Hurry! Extended until February 28, 2001!*

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1. If your SMART Buddy celfone came with the complete SMART Money MBS SIM and FREE SMART Money MasterCard, all you have to do is activate your SMART Money MasterCard.
2. If your SMART Buddy celfone already has the SMART Money MBS SIM card, just visit the nearest SMART Telecenter to get the SMART Money MasterCard for FREE by presenting your SMART Money MBS SIM card.
3. **HOW TO ACTIVATE YOUR SMART MONEY MasterCard:**
   a. Go to SMART MENU and select SMART MONEY.
   b. Key-in your 12-digit MCOM number (printed on your card) and press OK.
   c. Key in your default wireless PIN (W-PIN): 123456 and press OK.
   d. You will receive a confirmation message and be advised to change your W-PIN to activate your card.
4. All SMART Money MasterCards to be activated from January 10-31, 2001 shall be credited with Two Hundred Pesos (Php200.00) on the account 24 hours from activation.
5. Activation of the SMART Money MasterCard refers to the initialization of the SMART Money MasterCard with the SMART Mobile Phone prior to use as described in the SMART Money MasterCard User's Guide.
6. Once the Php200 value has been credited to his SMART Money MasterCard account, the cardholder will be notified via an SMS message in his SMART celfone regarding the credit of such.
7. **HOW TO USE YOUR SMART MONEY MasterCard:**
   Face-to-Face (In-store) Purchase
   a. To make an in-store purchasing (face-to-face), just present your SMART Money MasterCard to the store cashier for payment of selected merchandise.
   b. Cashier swipes the SMART Money MasterCard in the POS terminal and keys in the purchase amount.
   c. If transaction is approved, message is sent to POS terminal and the sales slip is printed.
   d. Sign on the dotted line and you're off!
   e. You will receive a text confirmation of your transaction.

   Non face-to-face (remote) Purchase
   a. Call the store to order items, advise the order taker that you will be paying through SMART Money MasterCard.
   b. Give the order taker your 12-digit MCOM number.
   c. If transaction is validated, a payment request message is sent to your celfone.
   d. To accept payment request, press ACCEPT, key in your W-PIN and press OK. To cancel the transaction, click on REJECT.
   e. System validates your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account is debited.
   f. You will receive a text message to acknowledge your transaction.

   Transfer value to another SMART Money MasterCard
   a. Go to SMART MENU and select SMART MONEY.
   b. From SMART MONEY menu, click on TRANSFER.
   c. Key in the 12-digit MCOM number of the recipient party and press OK.
   d. Select a preset amount and press OK.
   e. Key in your W-PIN and press OK.
   f. The SMART Money MasterCard system verifies your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money MasterCard funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account will then be debited and the value is transferred to the recipient.
   g. Both you and the recipient will receive a text message confirming the amount successfully transferred and your updated balances.
8. Only one (1) SMART Money MasterCard may be activated with a specific SMART Money MBS SIM card.
9. Cardholders who avail of two or more SMART Money MBS SIMs may be provided with the same number of SMART Money MasterCards. In such cases, they may activate all cards and qualify to avail more than once.
10. The FREE Php 200 promo does not apply to SMART Money MasterCard Extension cardholders, whose cards are issued on behalf of the Principal cardholder and may not in any manner be linked to the SMART celfone.
11. Promo period is valid until January 31, 2001.
12. SMART Communications and FIRST e-Bank reserves the right not to credit the Php200 amount to SMART Money MasterCard accounts it deems unfit, such as but not limited to, stolen/lost cards.

* Approved by DTI-NCR.
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Mimi Leder directs inspiring drama

MIMI Leder, whose "Deep Impact" grossed more than $350 million worldwide, making it one of 1998's most profitable films, now directs the critically-acclaimed soul-searching drama "Pay It Forward."

Plan

Starring Academy Award honorees Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt and Haley Joel Osment, this inspiring tale is about a 12-year-old boy (Osment) who devises a plan to change the world—paying favors forward to strangers—and in the process, helps his troubled mother (Hunt) and teacher (Spacey) find love.

The director discusses "Pay It Forward" in the following interview:

What attracted you to "Pay It Forward"?

Well, I read the script and I had to do it. I had taken a year-and-half off to be with my family and I had turned down a lot of scripts and I read this and I had to do it. I loved it. I thought the characters were rich, I thought they were dimensional.

I thought, "God if this really could happen maybe it could make a tiny little difference in this world." So I just thought it was a very challenging script emotionally to capture.

And then, did the rest fall into place?

Well, I read it and I thought that Haley Joel Osment was the perfect kid. And I thought he had to do this. He just is such a phenomenon. And then, I thought Kevin Spacey has to play this because he's one of the most extraordinary actors on the planet. And, of course then came Helen Hunt.

Layers

I think they all are such great actors, and they all worked very hard to make their characters real and believable and, I think they stripped away all the layers of any past roles they've played and really exposed themselves and dug really deep and were very brave.

HUNT and Spacey star in a film about hopefulness and forgiveness.

You're working on some dark material here and yet it is basically a child's story.

It's dark in the sense that it's also a story of a mother who's hitting and punishing her son, a mother who's not being a mother. So the boy becomes the little man in the family.

His mother's an alcoholic who has two jobs, one as a cocktail waitress and one as a change girl in a casino. And, he's alone a lot of the time. And he sort of is the caretaker. When she drinks, he's the one that throws the bottle away.

I think it was challenging to be that kind of kid in this movie because Haley's not like that at all. He comes from a very loving environment in his home life, and he had to dig deep to find that lonely part of him to want a father figure.

I think that was very hard for him to be this sort of troubled kid. But we talked a lot about the character, he just understood it.

You have themes in the film like forgiveness and redemption, some of them quite spiritual themes. Can you comment on that aspect of your film?

Well, you could very much categorize this as a very spiritual film, because of the themes of hopefulness and forgiveness. They are aspects of the movie and they are aspects of our daily lives.

I think we deal with forgiveness a lot. 'Cause we're human beings and it's an interesting story about people who have lost their way and find their way back.

Las Vegas

You shot the film in Las Vegas and you pretty much used the city as a character.

We wanted to shoot it on the outskirts of Vegas like sort of it was at the end of the world. The billion-dollar hotels, the lights, the contrast between the haves and the have-nots, and the greed in our society.

That a boy's idea of fixing the world could come out of a place like Las Vegas, in a place like that, seemed like the right place. And I liked the isolation of the desert and how that really played into the story of Kevin Spacey's character, who isolates himself from the world because of his burns, and 'cause he doesn't feel like he's good enough. They're all like these wounded people.

When you get such a wonderful bunch of actors together to make a movie, what happens?

Well, they were all respectful of each other. And we all had quite a lot of fun together, as well. They come to work and they really wanna work. They really want to figure out who these characters are.

Motivations

We had two weeks of rehearsal, where we really dissected the material and figured out all our motivations for why each character did what they did. It was a great process that we all benefited from. And I think the film is much more textured because of it.

Do you have a specific audience in mind for this film?

I don't think there's one specific audience. This film is for everybody. I felt it was really appropriate and necessary for teens to see this movie, because it's a young boy who takes this challenge in the movie, who is brave enough to come up with this plan, who's brave enough to try and change the world a little bit, and I think it is our youth who's gonna try things.

Hopefully, they're gonna change the world, they're gonna make the new laws, they're gonna do it. And, so if it was very important that our kids see it, then I think it's very important for all ages to see it. I've seen grown men cry after seeing this movie, and I hope people who see this film will allow themselves to feel.

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'The Wedding Planner' tops US box office

LOPEZ. Always a planner, never a bride in "The Wedding Planner."

BY ANDREW BRIDGES

LOS ANGELES—Moviegoers liked Jennifer Lopez as "The Wedding Planner," making the romantic comedy No. 1 at the US box-office, as studios challenged Sunday's Super Bowl, drawing more filmgoers this year than last.

Strong showing

Despite the allure of football's main event, studios reported a strong showing over the weekend, grossing an estimated $76 million, an increase of 73 percent over last year's take during the weekend of the US football championship, the Super Bowl, an industry analyst said.

"Last year was a lot weaker than this year. The lineup of women's films in the marketplace serving as counter-programming to the Super Bowl was really effective," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

Moviegoers also may have crowded theaters earlier, leaving Sunday free for football, said Linda Ditrinco, senior vice president of USA Films national sales.

"We kind of analyzed it internally, we noticed Friday and Saturday make up for the Sunday drops. People are still going to the movies," Ditrinco said.

"The Wedding Planner," starring Lopez—always a planner, never a bride—who falls for a groom-to-be, took in $14 million during its debut weekend.

Hip-hop feature

The film bounced "Save the Last Dance" to No. 2 from the top spot, which the hip-hop feature had held since its debut two weeks ago.

A Columbia Pictures spokesman said "The Wedding Planner" drew large numbers of women.

"The Super Bowl is obviously a dynamic in the marketplace, but this film has a very strong appeal to women, both over and under 25. It gives them an alternative," said Blaise Noto, Columbia's executive vice president of publicity.

Bank-robbing cheerleaders film "Sugar & Spice" debuted in the fifth spot. It opened with an estimated $6.02 million or $2,802 per screen.

"Cast Away," starring Tom Hanks as a modern Robinson Crusoe, slipped to third from second place, but stayed strong as it raked in $8.93 million for the weekend. So far, "Cast Away" has made $194 million.

"Right now it's on a path to $215 million. Then with Academy Awards, though you can't tell what it will do, it could pop," predicted Richard Myerson, executive vice president and general sales manager for Twentieth Century Fox.

Drug-war drama

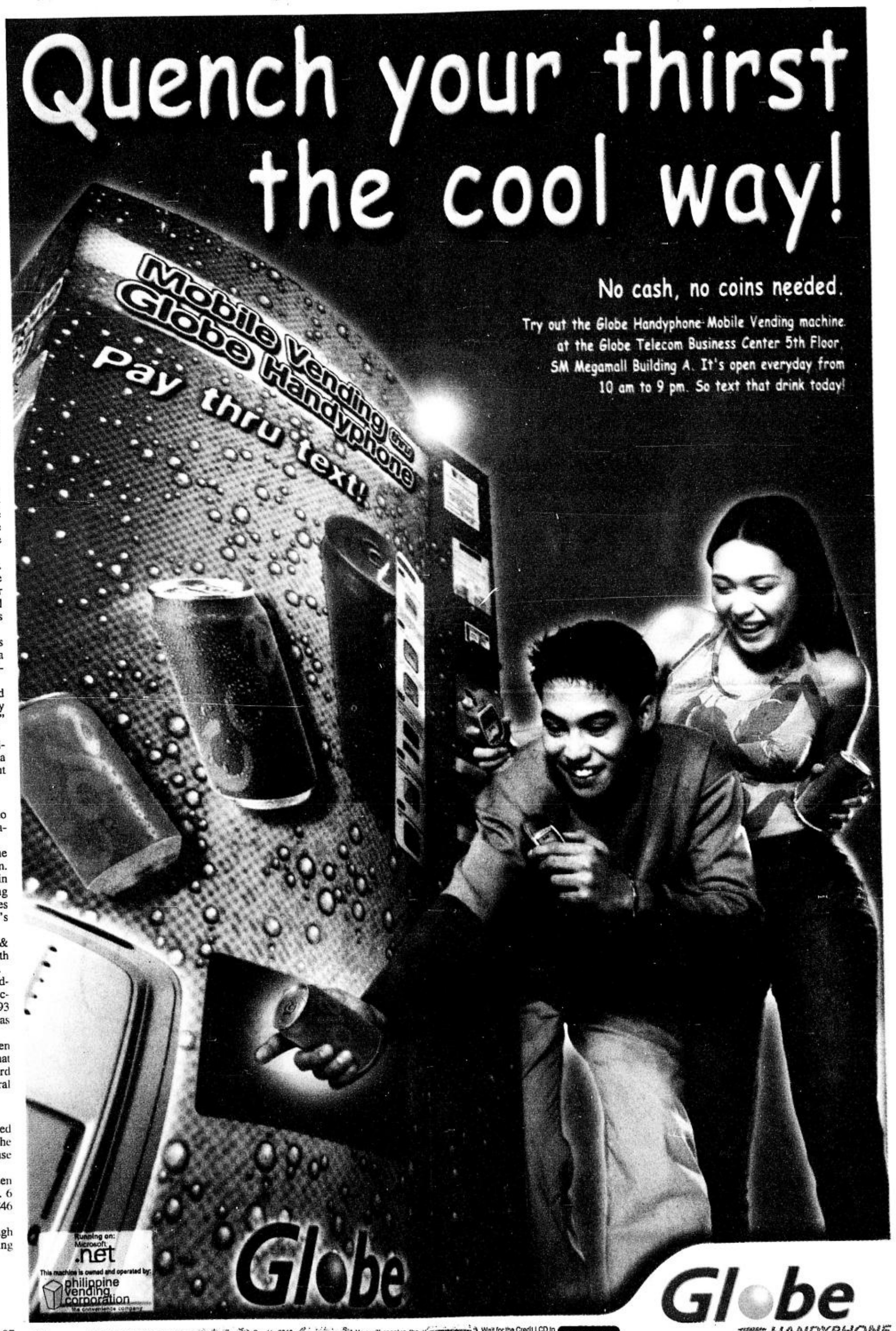
USA Films' drug-war drama "Traffic" pulled in $6.48 million, slipping one spot to No. 4. The film has gained $56.3 million since wide release earlier this month.

Martial arts film, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," continued to climb, moving to No. 6 from eighth. The film took in $5.07 million or $5,846 per screen.

Ticket sales were estimated for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

1. "The Wedding Planner," $14 million
2. "Save the Last Dance," $10 million
3. "Cast Away," $8.93 million
4. "Traffic," $6.48 million
5. "Sugar & Spice," $6.02 million
6. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," $5.07 million
7 (tie). "Snatch," $4.8 million
7 (tie). "Finding Forrester," $4.8 million
9. "What Women Want," $4.3 million
10. "Miss Congeniality," $3.96 million

AP



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Friends and politics

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

SHOULD longstanding friendships turn sour because of differing political beliefs?

Three Fridays ago, during People Power II, the whole entertainment industry was divided. As people from all walks of life showed their political biases by flocking either to Edsa (if you were anti-Erap) or Mendiola (if you were pro), celebrities themselves were moved to finally take a stand and show which side of the fence they really wanted to be in.

Ticklish situation

To people from outside show biz, it sounded like a simple task. But for the celebrities, it was a ticklish situation: President Joseph Estrada was an actor before he became a politician. This meant he had established a lot of friendships within show biz circles.

When he moved on to politics, he did a lot to uplift the plight of film and television people, watching over the industry like a father. He was also the pride of everyone—after all, he was the only actor in the history of Philippine politics to assume the highest post in the land.

With all this and more, could they dare turn their back on a comrade?

Apparently, yes. Some had been vocal about it from the start, like the Apo Hiking Society, the Pangilinan clan (headed by Anthony and Kiko), Laurice Guillen, etc. These celebrities went to Edsa like many people.

In most cases, being stars, they were asked to talk or perform to boost the cause and its supporters.

Sudden converts

But there were also surprise and sudden converts: Bong Revilla, Rosanna Roces, Nora Aunor –etc. But my opening question begins to unravel when we zero in on one name on the list: Fanny Serrano.

Fanny is anti-Erap. He is also one of the closest friends of Lorna Tolentino, who is married to Rudy Fernandez, who is running under the party of former President Erap. If only for this reason, Lorna is pro-Erap. She also knew that her close friend, Fanny, was anti-Erap, but she wasn't really affected by it. After all, each person is entitled to his political belief.

But Lorna and Fanny's friendship changed when Fanny decided to do something about his anti-Erap stance. At the height of People Power II, Fanny was seen at Edsa with the crowd asking Erap to resign.

Fanny said, "What I did was right for the Filipino people. *"Pinapakita ko lang ang nararamdaman ko."*

But Lorna apparently saw Fanny's move differently. After all, what would people think if even her best friend was against the political party Rudy was part of? It was one thing to tolerate each other's belief, but why flaunt it in public when you know your best friend could be affected?

Hurt

Lorna was hurt. It eventually took a toll on their friendship. Lorna and Fanny have not spoken to each other since.

TOLENTINO AND SERRANO. A time to heal.

Lorna promptly pulled out all of the clothes she had asked Fanny to design and make and paid for them. She no longer goes to Fanny to have her makeup done. Worse, people close to the two have begun taking sides, making their reconciliation difficult.

I don't know how this cold war between Lorna and Fanny will end. I don't want to take sides either, because each of them has a point.

One thing I'm sure of: If Lorna and Fanny don't patch up their friendship, it would surely be something to cry over. Lorna and Fanny have been true friends in the real sense of the word for years. Through thick and thin, sick and sin, the two have been at each other's side.

Proofs

Some proofs of this: Lorna stood vigil at Fanny's side when the latter was operated on due to a heart ailment. Fanny did Lorna's gown and makeup when she wed Rudy. In fact, many movie people used to joke that Lorna should have married Fanny because of their closeness.

Fanny and Lorna would go on trips together, trade secrets with each other and shared tears or laughter at every victory or defeat.

And now this.

My advice to Fanny and Lorna is this: Talk to each other—about what happened and how you feel. Ventilate your thoughts and keep an open mind.

Above all, save your friendship!

Healing

As the people at Edsa said, the only way that People Power II would be significant is if it brought about the healing our land. In a small and personal way, both of you should heal, too.

And the first step towards it is to forget past differences. We can no longer do anything about yesterday. The only time we have control of is the moment we are living in.

Besides, true friends are hard to find. In a world where most people think of their own interests, when you do find true friends, you treasure them and keep them close to your heart.

As a final note, let me share a text message I received recently: "Lord, amid all the trials you have allowed to happen in my life, grant me the wisdom to know when to hold, when to let go and when to move on in faith."

Lorna and Fanny, life goes on!

And so should a friendship as beautiful as yours.

Anthony Edwards plans to leave 'ER'

LOS ANGELES—NBC's "ER" will lose its most prominent doctor next year.

Anthony Edwards, who has portrayed Dr. Mark Greene on television's top-rated series since its premiere in 1994, plans to leave after the 2001-2002 season when his current contract is up.

Eight years

"I think that will be it," he said in an interview. "It's been eight years of my family working around my schedule. It's been a long time playing Dr. Greene."

NBC is contractually committed to the series through at least the 2003-04 season. "ER" has survived—even flourished—despite the defections of George Clooney, Sherry Stringfield, Julianna Margulies and Kellie Martin from its ensemble cast.

Two other actors who were part of the original "ER" cast, Eriq La Salle and Noah Wyle, are also at the end of contracts next year.

A spokesman for La Salle said the actor had made no decision about his future beyond next year. Wyle's representative did not immediately return a call for comment.

Edwards, a four-time Emmy nominee, is arguably the show's lead actor. His character is struggling with brain cancer and recently traveled to New York City from its Chicago setting for experimental surgery.

Integral part

"Tony is an integral part of 'ER' and has been essential to the success of the show," John Wells, the program's executive producer, said on Tuesday. "Though we would love to have him stay, we understand if he wants to move on and we will miss him greatly."

Edwards received a $1 million bonus with other cast members two years ago when Warner Bros. Television reached a new licensing deal with NBC. He said his departure was 99 percent certain and not an attempt to bolster his negotiating position on a new contract.

"If they want to talk to me about that, they should have talked to me a long time ago," he said. "I think they know."

His departure has nothing to do with dissatisfaction over the show or his role, he said. Instead, the father of three young children wants to spend more time with his family and working on a phenomenally successful TV series gives him that luxury.

"I'll be almost 40 when this is over," he said. "It will be almost 24 years since I started. I love to act, but to act every day for 10 months a year and not see your kids ... It's more of a family thing." *AP*

Survival of the human spirit vivified in 'Cast Away'

IN "Cast Away," Academy Award-winning filmmaker Robert Zemeckis and two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks reunite to explore the blessings and heartache of fate and the survival of the human spirit.

Systems engineer

Hanks stars as Chuck Noland, a FedEx systems engineer whose personal and professional life are ruled by the clock. His fast-paced career takes him, often at a moment's notice, to far-flung locales—and away from his girlfriend Kelly, played by Helen Hunt.

Chuck's manic existence abruptly ends when, after a plane crash, he becomes isolated on a remote island—cast away into the most desolate environment imaginable.

Stripped of the conveniences of everyday life, he first must meet the basic needs of survival, including water, food and shelter. Chuck, the consummate problem solver, eventually figures out how to sustain himself physically. But then what? Chuck begins his true personal journey.

After four years, fate gives Chuck a chance to fight his way back to civilization, only to find an unexpected emotional challenge greater than all the earlier physical ones.

His ability to persevere and to hope are a product of his life-changing experience. Though the conclusion of Chuck's story may not be a conventional Hollywood ending, it is, like life, full of truth, pain and promise.

Hanks, who came up with the original idea for "Cast Away," began developing the film with screenwriter William Broyles Jr. about six years ago, when the two men were working together on "Apollo 13."

Common practice

In sharp contrast to the common practice of hiring multiple writers, Broyles was the only writer employed on "Cast Away." Through its many drafts, his script became a model for the often unappreciated art of true screen dramatization, where events and emotion are brought to life with minimal dialogue.

As Hanks and Broyles began to toss around ideas for the film, key themes, story points and character points began to fall into place. They agreed that Hanks' character should be a FedEx employee.

"As a FedEx worker, the character would be dedicated to connecting people all over the world, just as his life would be run by time and his connections," Broyles explains. "And then we wondered, what would happen to him if you took this man, who's so connected, and disconnect him from everything."

This led to other questions: What happens to him on the island? How does he survive? To find the answers, Broyles decided to get some first-hand experience. Two experts in primitive technology took Broyles to an island near the Sea of Cortez, where the writer, like his fictional creation, was cast away from the world he knew.

"The first thing that came to mind was 'Oh, my god, I've got to survive,'" Broyles recalls. "I had to figure out where to get water, how to make a knife out of stone, what to eat. Some of these experiences became a kind of rudimentary basis for what happens to Chuck."

Layers

Broyles and Hanks also discussed themes from classic stories of unparalleled adventure. "'Cast Away' is really about finding your way home whether that means physically or emotionally—casting away all of the layers that complicate who we are in this world and rediscovering the things in life that really matter," Broyles comments.

Adventure stories enriched by a character's personal journey are fertile ground for director Robert Zemeckis, who together with Hanks, took the world on an incredible journey with a character named Forrest Gump.

The Oscar-winning director is often praised as a filmmaker whose box-office blockbusters, like the trilogy of "Back to the Future" films, "Contact" and "What Lies Beneath," both entertain and enlighten audiences. Building on Broyles' screenplay, Zemeckis gave "Cast Away" its dramatic and visual heart.

Zemeckis and Hanks shared a common vision for the film. "'Cast Away' offers high adventure," Hanks notes. "But at the same time it presents a simple Zen-like understanding of what things in this world are truly important."

Chuck's relationship with girlfriend Kelly is certainly important to them both, despite their all-too-frequent periods spent apart due to his job responsibilities.

"These two people are not young or naive at this point in the game, and it's not a relationship based on flowers and romance," Hanks comments. "But they're grateful to have found each other. They're completely at ease and feel total acceptance with one another.

Security

"Their relationship is so filled with security that it's possible for them to live these lives of total distraction caused by his job."

Helen Hunt appreciated the complexity of the relationship between Chuck and Kelly. She also recalls the humorous set of circumstances that brought her to the project.

She and Zemeckis were having breakfast to discuss another possible film project, and as they were wrapping up the meeting, Zemeckis mentioned he was going off to make a film with Tom Hanks on an island.

"I said, 'I want to be in *that* movie,'" laughs Hunt. "Not long after, Bob called and said, 'Okay, we've got something for you.' I was totally surprised and thrilled. I really think this is such a bold and unique film."

Zemeckis was pleased that Hunt took him up on his offer. "Helen's presence runs throughout the movie, because the memory of Kelly is the one thing that keeps Chuck alive when he's on that island," he points out.

While that memory is essential to Chuck's survival on the island, a critical part of his transformation there begins with his unusual friendship with "Wilson," a volleyball that has washed ashore inside a FedEx package from the doomed flight.

Device

"Wilson initially is used as a device to let the audience know what Chuck is thinking," Zemeckis explains. "But then it becomes something more, as Chuck, in his solitude and depressed mental state, starts to relate to the volleyball."

Wilson becomes a key part of Chuck's existence on the island. "Once we show that Chuck is able to figure out the four basic elements for human survival—food, water, shelter and fire—then we deal with the fifth element, which is companionship," says Hanks.

"Wilson is a totally accidental creation of Chuck's that comes along at the moment he needs him most. And like all good friendships, they happen naturally."

Wilson isn't the only package that plays an important role in Chuck's survival. Chuck "rescues" several other FedEx boxes, and finds novel uses for their contents. But he decides to not open one particular package that is adorned with angel wings.

The angel wings become a symbol of hope for him, one that far outweighs any physical use he could have found for what is inside the box. It is a symbol he holds on to until after he has returned to civilization. Although the box's contents remain a mystery—and indeed in part because they remain a mystery—its value to him is immeasurable.

Symbol of hope

Chuck's friendship with Wilson, and his perception of the angel wings as a symbol of hope, point to one of the key questions the film poses: After you've learned how to survive alone physically, how do you survive emotionally, psychologically and spiritually?

Broyles learned some of the answers while reading the logs and journals of several castaways, shipwreck victims and others who survived, but ultimately succumbed to a disaster. "They reached this cracking point of desperation, where they just couldn't go on anymore," Broyles says.

After four years on the island, Chuck faces the same circumstances uncovered in Broyles' research. "Once Chuck has figured out how to stay alive, his battle is no longer against the elements, it's about desperation," Hanks points out.

HANKS. The movie "presents a simple Zen-like understanding of what things in the world are truly important."

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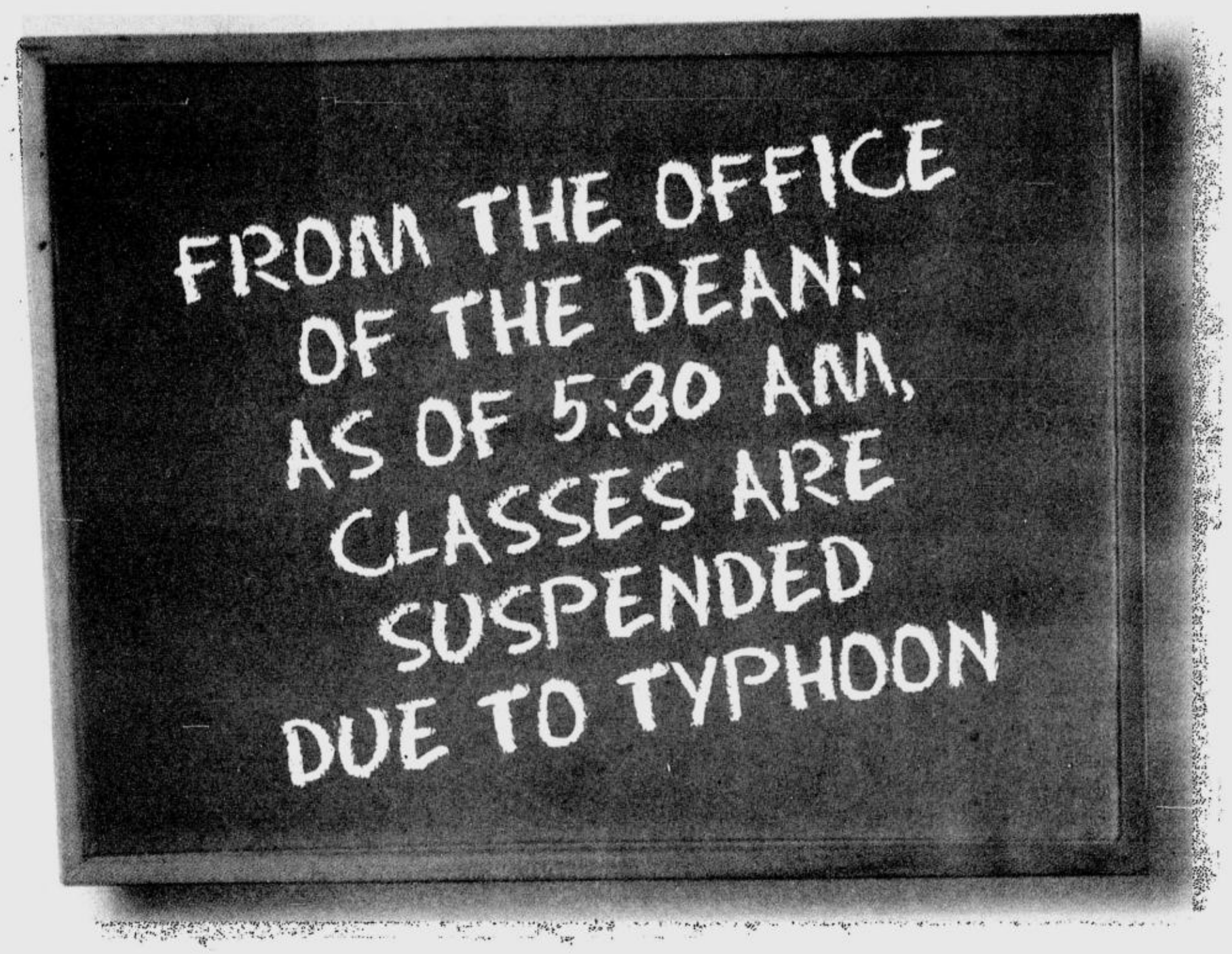

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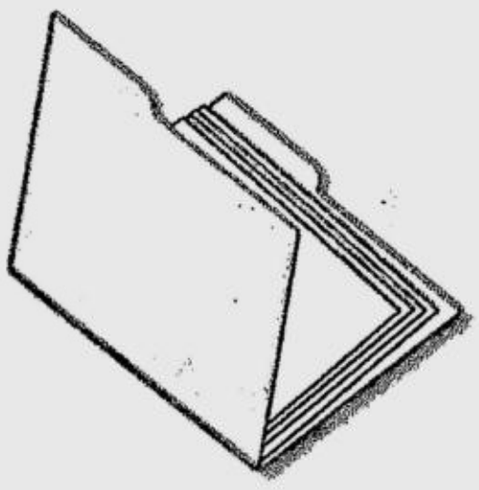

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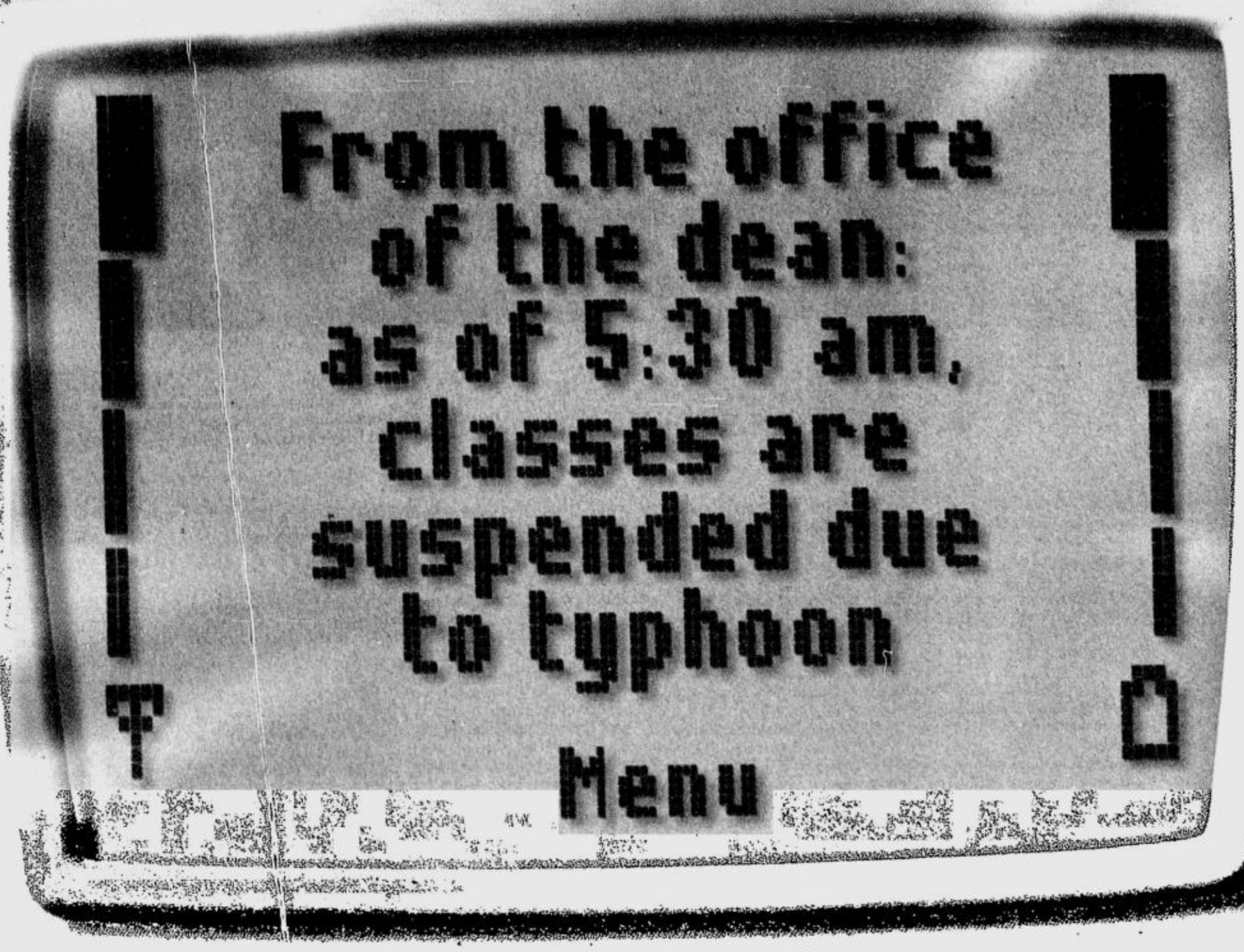

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Benjamin Bratt steps out of Julia's shadow

BENJAMIN Bratt wants a life. After making six movies back to back—including two Warner Bros. films, namely "Red Planet" and "Miss Congeniality"—Bratt is ready to take a break to enjoy some downtime with his family, as well as with his off-and-on girlfriend, Julia Roberts. You might say he's lying low, something that's not always so easy for a genuinely nice guy like Bratt.

Wrestling mat

In "Miss Congeniality," Bratt plays a lady-killing FBI agent partnering with Sandra Bullock's tomboy undercover agent. In one scene, he and the "Speed" star hit the wrestling mat, with painful results. Their comical grappling resulted in a twisted neck, a sprained back and a swollen elbow for Bratt.

"A delicate little flower," is how Bullock jokingly referred to her hunky leading man. "I wasn't as cautious with Ben as I should have been," she said more seriously.

"Girls don't think they're going to hurt guys. Guys are always aware [of the possibility of] hurting girls. So he was very careful with me, but I just whaled; I just went out, there and went for broke."

In "Red Planet," Bratt portrays Air Force Captain Ted Santen, the co-pilot of the first manned spaceship that's been trapped in Mars.

He sees a resonance in the scenario presented in the film. "One day human beings will colonize other planets," he says. "That's within the realm of our technology. I don't think it will be in our lifetime though, nor in our children's."

When we met with Bratt, he struck us as a down-to-earth type whose laid-back, friendly demeanor revealed nothing of the angst he claimed to feel about meeting the press, although he did politely sidestep questions pertaining to Roberts.

That's a nice silver ring you're wearing. It looks like a wedding ring.

Oh, thank you. It looks like a wedding ring because it's on the wedding ring finger. However, it is not a wedding ring, it is a reminder ring.

To remind you of what?

It's a reminder of what's important to me.

Which is?

I'll stop there! [Laughs]

Julia Roberts reportedly said on "Oprah" that you and she are "drunk with joy." What is it about you that makes her so happy?

That you would have to ask her.

What is it about her that makes you so happy, then?

If she were a beauty contestant, her title would be Miss Everything. She possesses all the qualities that I love in a partner. She's generous. She's kind. She's loving, and she's very good to me. I've said too much. [Laughs]

You and Julia are such a famous powerhouse celebrity couple. How can you still be private when you're so prominent?

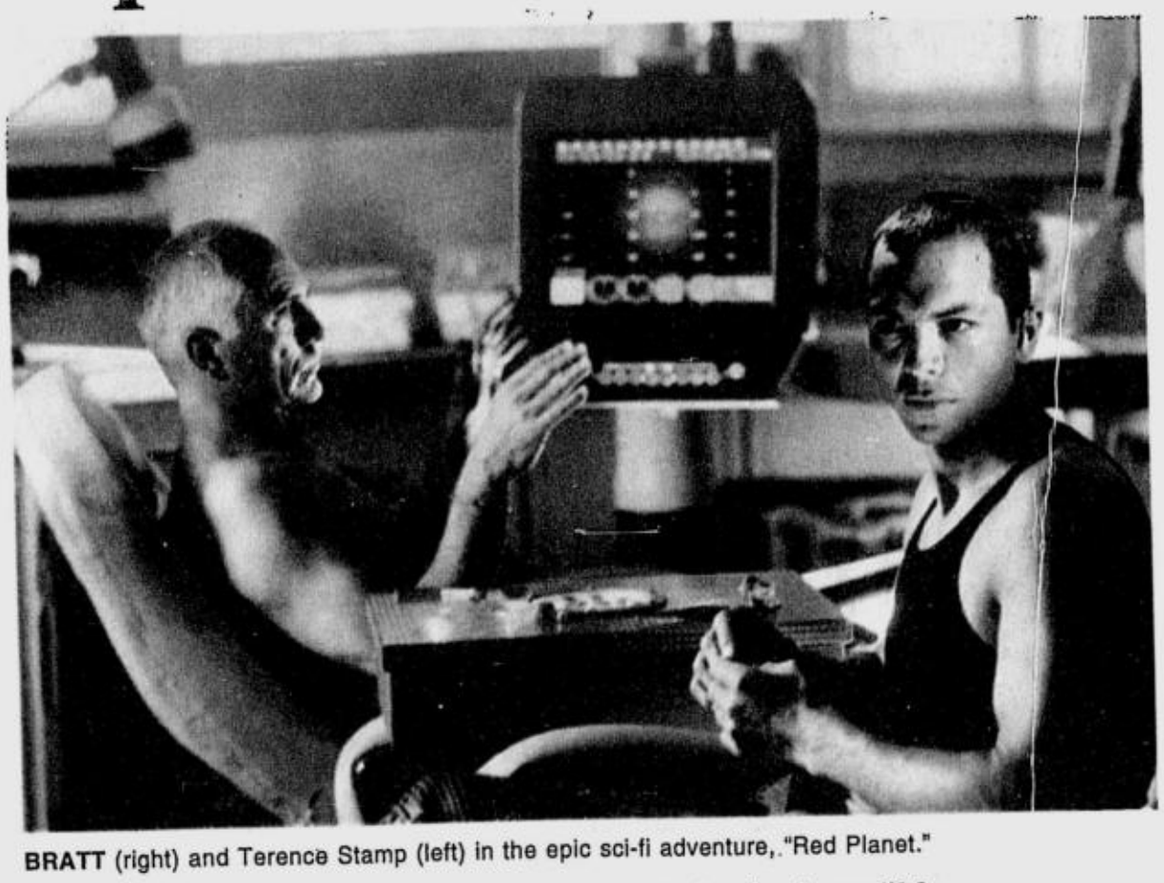
Well, for one thing, we don't see ourselves in that light. It's not like our pillow talk is about how great we are. [Laughs] That doesn't really occur. But the fact of the matter is that no one asked me to take this profession on. It's a choice I made, and since it is a highly visible profession, there's a trade-off in giving up an element of your privacy.

And there will be a natural curiosity in terms of what I might be like in private and what the people I spend my time with might be like in private as well. I get that. But I also understand that I'm a private human being and that I have a right to expect a certain degree of privacy. Sometimes that is not always the case—I'm not accorded that.

So I just don't focus on the negatives because most of the time it's so outrageous anyway. You really have to have a sense of humor about it.

The character you play in "Miss Congeniality" thinks of himself as quite a ladies' man, doesn't he? He's very charming.

I've had different takes on that. Some women say he's charming and fun. Other women say, "You play such a creep in this movie!" Well, he's an archetype, really. He's the kind of guy we all went to high school or college with. He's the red-blooded macho American ladies' man. He thinks he's good at his job, and he is.



BRATT (right) and Terence Stamp (left) in the epic sci-fi adventure, "Red Planet."

Talk about how his relationship with Sandra Bullock's character changes.

In the beginning, he doesn't really acknowledge her or see her as a woman so much as he does an FBI agent and peer. If there is any degree of sexual magnetism, it's buried deep, deep within, and it doesn't really emerge until she goes through a kind of physical transformation.

On the surface, that seems superficial, but it's a sexual and emotional transformation that occurs after the physical one, where she lets her wall and her guard down a little and allows him to see something else inside her.

You and Sandy seem to have very good chemistry onscreen.

Do you think? Chemistry is a funny thing. I don't think it's my place to say if we have it or if we don't. Maybe what that's about is the ease with which we work together. The woman is positively out of her mind! [Laughs] It certainly makes it fun and interesting.

Did you have doubles for the wrestling scene, where your character is trying to convince hers to take the beauty pageant operation?

Doubles were standing by, but unfortunately for them, they were meant to sit on the sidelines the whole day because Sandy and I are ruthlessly competitive with each other. We will not be outdone by [each] other, and we did the entire sequence ourselves, which went on for about 14 hours. It had to be choreographed like a dance.

What is funny about that is I was a wrestler in high school, so I thought this was going to be a walk in the park. I went easy on her for the first couple of takes until I realized that she wasn't going easy on me at all! [Laughs]

Have you ever had a rough patch in your life?

As a professional actor, I've never lacked for work at any time. As long as I have a job and my health, I feel like I have no complaints.

Millions of people want to be actors, and there are thousands of us who actually make a great effort at it. [So] I feel blessed not only to be making a living at acting, but to have the opportunities that I've been presented with—certainly of late.

> 'There's a great degree of luck in what I do. You need to have skills to back up the opportunities, but it helps to have people behind you that believe in you'

There's a great degree of luck in what I do, too. You need to have skills to back up the opportunities, but it helps to have people behind you that believe in you.

What is your key strength?

I like to think that I have integrity and that for the most part, I'm a man of my word. As I get older, I understand that ultimately, that's all you have. I am not perfect in being that all the time, but I strive for it.

Will Patton . . . (From page E6)

phor for what's happening within society."

Will Patton began his career in New York after moving there from his native Charleston, South Carolina. He attended the North Carolina School of the Arts and also studied with Lee Strasberg at the Actor's Studio and with Joseph Chaikin at the Open Theater.

Patton has appeared in over 40 off-Broadway plays. He won three prestigious Obie Awards, one in 1982 for his role in Sam Shepard's "Fool for Love" and two more several years later with "What Did He See?" and "Tourists and Refugees #2."

His chameleon-like quality allows him to play a wide variety of roles on the big screen, giving standout performances in such films as "Silkwood," "No Way Out," "The Client," "Copycat," "The Postman" and "Armageddon."

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David Morse loves the challenge of playing completely different roles

ACTOR David Morse has established a diverse career that includes work in film and television. He received critical acclaim last year in the smash hit "The Green Mile," starring opposite Tom Hanks, and gave memorable performances in "The Negotiator," "Contact," "The Long Kiss Goodnight," "The Rock," "12 Monkeys" and "The Getaway."

Two films

Now, Morse stars in two films from Warner Bros., playing two characters completely different from each other. In "Proof of Life," he plays Meg Ryan's good husband who gets kidnapped by Latin American terrorists, while in "Bait," he is a federal agent from hell who terrorizes Jamie Foxx.

"I feel very fortunate as an actor to be offered these extremely different roles," says David Morse, who, like Denzel Washington, first gained fame in the hit TV series "St. Elsewhere." "What more can an actor ask than to be given chances to stretch one's acting skills?"

Also starring Russell Crowe, "Proof of Life" is an action-suspense drama about desperation, loyalty and faith set against the backdrop of the big-profit business of international kidnapping.

MORSE in a scene from "Proof of Life" with co-star Meg Ryan.

Morse portrays kidnap victim Peter Bowman. His work in "The Green Mile" convinced everyone that he was the right actor for the job.

Physically difficult

Working nonstop since he wrapped up filming the Tom Hanks starrer, Morse remembers, "I got a call from producer Martin Shafer at Castle Rock and was told to be prepared for a very difficult role—physically difficult. I responded by telling him that it was fine by me, that I'm happy to do difficult things."

As the one who is kidnapped, director Taylor Hackford wanted Morse to lose a great deal of weight for the role. He followed a medically supervised diet and quickly shed the pounds.

He endured long hours of hair and makeup as well to ensure that the audience will believe how the hardships of a kidnap experience affect the hostage's appearance.

Regarding researching the role, Morse reveals, "I decided not to research what it means to be a hostage before we started shooting. I didn't want to prepare to be a hostage. Instead, I focused on playing a man who came to South America to build a dam and do essentially what he had dreamed of doing for years.

"So I started the filming with the idea that I'm building a dam and let's just see what happens when the hostage stuff starts happening."

He continues, "Once we did the abduction, I gave [kidnap survivor] Tom Hargrove a call and started to find out what it was like for him. I also had his book, which was confirmation that I was on track. I was very concerned about honoring his experience and in talking to him and through our emails, I got the sense that I was doing okay."

Authority

On the other hand, the filmmakers of "Bait" believe David Morse possesses both the authority and the mental acuity to embody the role of federal agent Edgar Clenteen.

In the film, Jamie Foxx ("Any Given Sunday") is Alvin Bristol, a petty thief who accidentally receives crucial information about a gold heist from a master criminal while they are in jail together. Clenteen releases him as a human "bait" to lure the criminal's partner out of hiding and reveal the stolen treasure.

Morse relished the opportunity to show a different side of his talent in "Bait." "I haven't had the chance to do a lot of dark characters," says Morse.

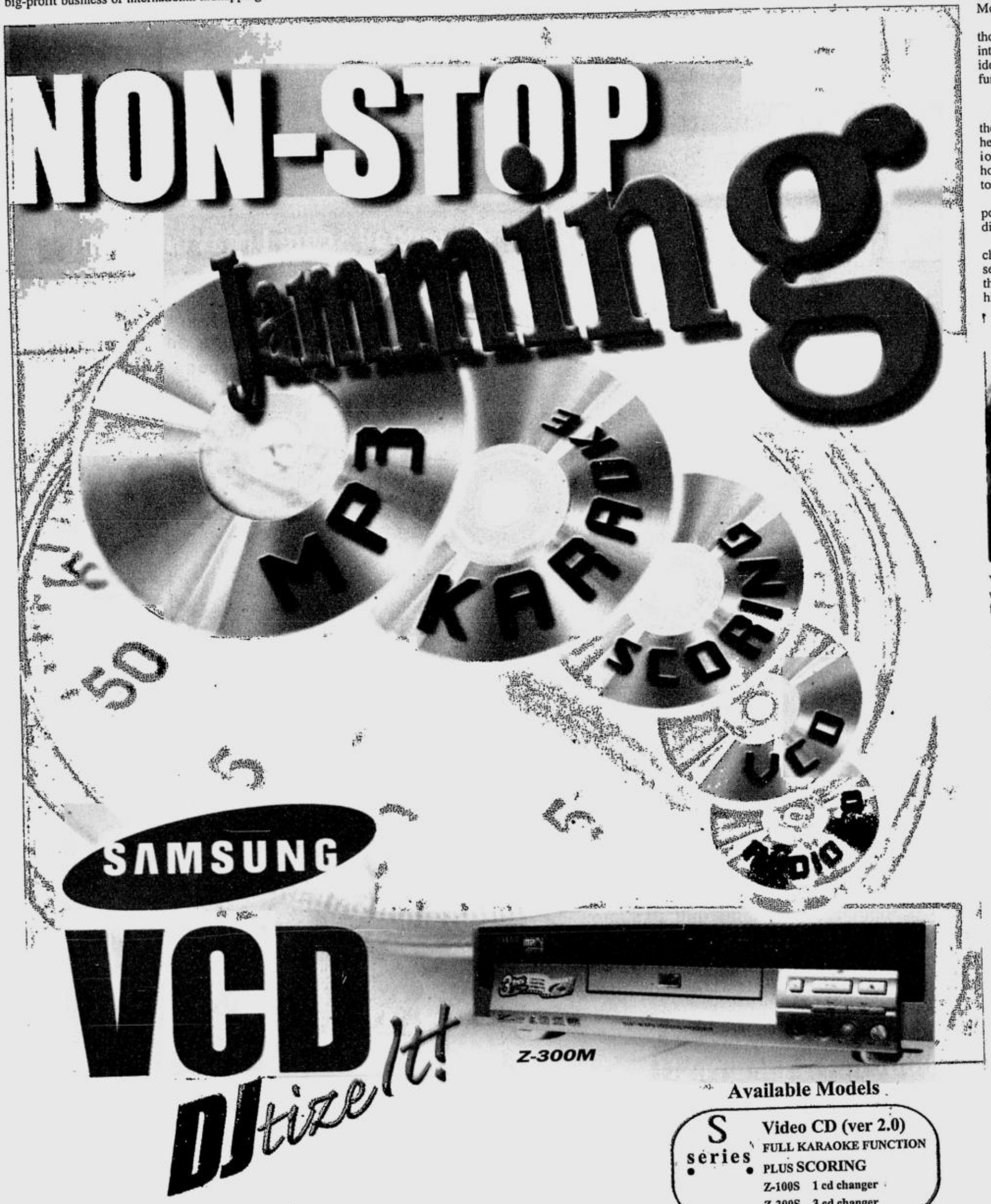
"When I started out in theater I did a lot of those and have been trying to find a way back into it. I read the script for 'Bait,' and immediately identified Clenteen as a role I could have a lot of fun playing."

Stress reduction

Morse describes Clenteen as a "guy who feels the younger agents gaining on him. As tough as he would like to be, he still needs to sit on a cushion to ease through the day. He takes homeopathics for stress reduction and is trying to keep himself from having a heart attack."

"We tried to humanize Clenteen as much as possible in the war room with his team," muses director Antoine Fuqua.

"He's funny. He doesn't dislike Jamie Foxx's character, Alvin, but he knows that Alvin presents his best opportunity to get his hands on this master criminal. So, he has to use Alvin to do his job."



YOAST (Patton) celebrates his team's victory with daughter Sheryl (Pannettiere) in a scene from "Remember the Titans."

Will Patton, quiet Titan

AS one of the most familiar and welcome faces in film for the past 20 years, Will Patton has quietly made his way into the filmgoers' consciousness as a creative and diverse performer.

True story

Last seen by moviegoers in the high-octane car chase thriller "Gone in 60 Seconds," Patton appears opposite Oscar winner Denzel Washington in the triumphant true story "Remember the Titans."

He provides a quiet foil to the volatile Herman Boone (Washington) as Bill Yoast, assistant coach to the racially integrated T.C. Williams football team. Passed over for the head coach position by the politically conscious school board, Yoast put his pride in the back seat and helped Boone coach the struggling Titans to a historical winning season.

On the field, Boone and Yoast delivered an interesting mix. While Boone would rant and rave, Bill Yoast was and is a subtle man. Early in his life, Yoast had designs on becoming a preacher, but instead decided to focus on kids and teaching.

Although the real Coach Yoast is the proud father of four daughters, writer Gregory Allen Howard wrote his character with only one precocious offspring. Played by nine-year-old Hayden Pannettiere ("A Bug's Life," "Dinosaur"), Sheryl is guileless. According to Yoast, the hardest thing about his demotion was explaining it to his football-born-and-reared daughter.

Similarities

"Remember the Titans" producer Jerry Bruckheimer says there are similarities between Coach Yoast and Will Patton.

"There's a quiet strength that both of them have. And there's something about Will which allows him to transcend an audience's expectations; he has the ability to become anybody, to take on a vastly different persona for any given role. In this piece, he's playing someone with a great deal of conviction, but someone who has been passed over for a post he's wanted all his life."

"Yoast considers coaching the best job in the world," says Patton. "And right when he's about to get an even better job, it suddenly all falls apart. In the script, Yoast keeps silent but by being present and just going along, he's part of the prejudice. Something needs to happen to this town and oddly enough, football becomes a meta-

WILL/P.E8

Saturday SPECIAL

SPACEY. Just getting started.

Kevin Spacey likes doing 'dangerous' movies

TWO-TIME Oscar winner Kevin Spacey follows up "American Beauty" with the heart-warming drama "Pay It Forward" from "Deep Impact" director Mimi Leder.

Inspiring tale

Also starring Helen Hunt and Haley Joel Osment, this inspiring tale about a 12-year-old boy (Osment) who devises a plan to change the world—forwarding three big favors to three other people—and in the process, helps his troubled mother (Hunt) and teacher (Spacey) find love.

Spacey plays Eugene Simonet, a passionate social studies

KEVIN/F2

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Mishmash of musical styles at 'Rock in Rio' festival

BY KATHERINE BALDWIN

RIO de Janeiro, Brazil—More than 200,000 frenzied fans rocked into the early hours of Monday, Jan. 15, as heavy metal favorite Guns N' Roses fired up the third night of a mega-music festival gripping Rio de Janeiro.

Cooler welcome

But earlier acts Oasis of Britain and Brazilian pop star Carlinhos Brown received a cooler welcome as restless on-lookers launched plastic bottles and cups at bands that failed to live up to their heavy metal expectations.

A paunchy Axl Rose exploded onto the stage amid fireballs and big-screen images of naked women for a mammoth show that closed the first night of hard rock of this seven-day extravaganza, called "Rock in Rio for a Better World."

Rose's shrieking rendition of old favorites "Welcome to the Jungle" and "Sweet Child o' Mine" stirred the exhausted crowd to life after Oasis left some unexcited onlookers dozing to all but the most popular songs, like "Champagne Super Nova."

Guns N' Roses thrilled fans with a new lineup and new releases in its first big stage concert in seven years. The group played at a smaller gig in Las Vegas.

But local act Brown suffered a similar fate to Oasis as his Afro-Brazilian percussion and reggae mix failed to stir up the adolescent crowd and his calls for "Peace in the world and vibrations for a better world!" fell on deaf ears.

Disgruntled fan

"This doesn't even seem like a rock festival," one disgruntled fan shouted. "Everybody is playing here, they've even got some Indian up there dancing," he said, referring to Brown, who wore a straw headdress.

Critics had warned that the mish mash of musical styles at the event that kicked off Friday, Jan. 12, could spark conflicts. The concert booked 159 bands including some of the world's top recording stars in a bid to draw 1.5 million fans from Brazil and abroad, which would make it the biggest music event ever.

Acts range from Britney Spears to Iron Maiden and old-favorite Sting. Organizers pledged, however, to organize the line-up to avoid a teen pop idol back-to-back with heavy metal.

But the intended mix at the so-called "Brazilian Woodstock" went awry on the third night. Tens of thousands of teens, many in black heavy metal T-shirts, booed and hissed as a traditional Rio samba school took the stage in the wake of Rose's more than two-hour steamy show.

The Viradouro Samba School was forced to sidestep a shower of flying bottles.

Great lengths

Promoters have gone to great lengths to ensure that Rock in Rio 3 is not a repeat of Woodstock III, the 30th anniversary show in 1999 that ended in riots and looting. Despite fans' impatience, the event has gone relatively smoothly. Thus far transport chaos and sun stroke have been the major complaints.

But after a three-day respite, promoters faced their biggest challenge yet when the festival resumed Jan. 18, with teen sensations Britney Spears and 'N Sync—the most popular night of the event.

There were also two more nights of heavy rock headlined by Iron Maiden and Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Reuters

SPEARS. One of the top recording stars booked for possibly the biggest music event ever.

Expanded version of 'The Vagina Monologues' has greater grit and pertinence

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

WE caught the first performance of the expanded version of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" at Music Museum last week and were thus able to compare it to the original, three-actor version, which we were also able to see last year. Our findings:

More graphic

The expanded version has greater grit and pertinence, and not just because some of its scenes have been translated into Tagalog, which is generally more graphic than English.

More to the point, the new show packs a stronger wallop because the original format has been adjusted to accommodate songs and video clips about the sex trafficking of Filipino women abroad, in support of Gabriela's Purple Rose campaign.

Thus, the original monologues' generally explicative quality has been given an activist slant. This accounts for its stronger impact—but it also turns some viewers off because it can get to be too hortatory at times.

The additional numbers also distend the original material and weaken its sense of unity. Adding to this distention is the decision to feature, not just three actors, but just about one performer for each of the show's 15 or so monologues.

The original three (Tami Monsod, Monique Wilson, Dulce Aristorenas) were pretty similar in terms of level of talent, but the new version's mix of performers is less uniform in ability, thus making the show a more uneven viewing experience.

New performers

Some of the new performers were able to keep up with Tami and Dulce, who have remained in the cast, but some five others couldn't pass muster.

This is to be expected, since it's much more difficult to find 15 wonderful performers than three excellent ones. Still, if the show is determined to expand its cast, in its succeeding versions, it must find new actors who really have what it takes to keep up with the top-rate company.

But we agree that it's a good thing that other actors are being brought into the "VM" experience, not really to provide greater variety, but to involved more performers in the show's worthy pro-liberation, anti-sexploitation cause.

GIL. One of "VM's" 15 actors.

Adjustments

The cause *is* a worthy one, but performance standards have to be maintained, so we hope that "VM" makes adjustments in its casting, especially for its all-Tagalog version, which will be unveiled at Music Museum this September, prior to a tour of centers for Filipino workers abroad.

On the Tagalog component of last week's shows: Generally, it made the few translated monologues more pertinent to the Filipino experience. The gasps and bursts of laughter the Tagalog words elicited were louder because the local terms for sex organs and acts are more "shocking." The original English version calls a spade a spade, but the Tagalog translations call a spade a shovel!

Important message

Nothing terribly wrong with that, especially when you remember that the show will ultimately be done for Tagalog speakers both here and abroad, to widen the reach of its important message.

Last week, however, the audience was turned off when *both* the English and Tagalog versions were done of the same monologue. The ploy was redundant and added to the show's running time, which was already distended by all those musical and video additions to the original material.

Yes, feature some Tagalog monologues, but not after doing the English originals. In this instance, either-or is decidedly better than both-and.

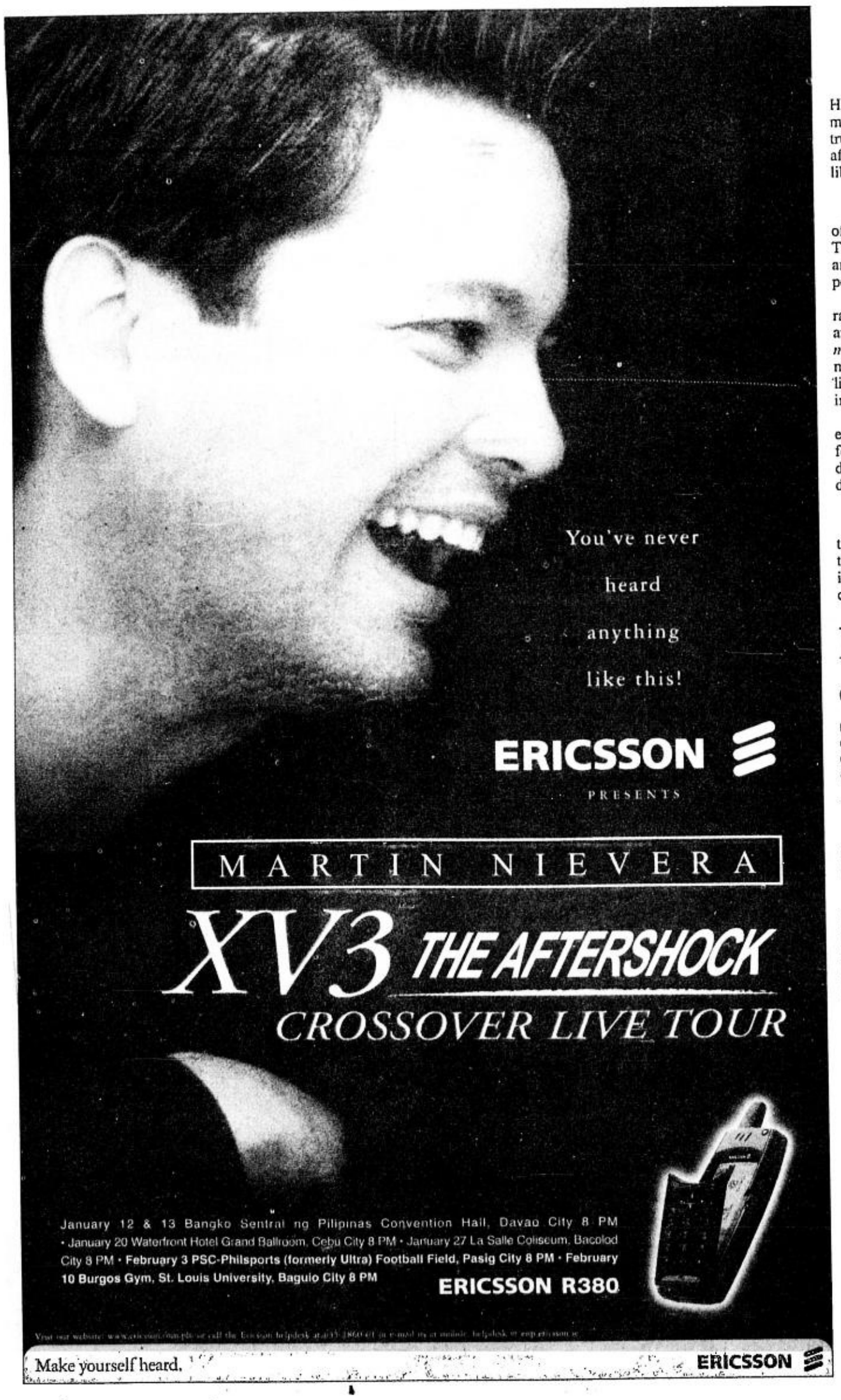
Gradual evolution

So, we wish "The Vagina Monologues" well on its gradual evolution into a more committed, all-Tagalog show. But we suggest these changes:

Don't opt for a cast of 15-plus—it's hard to find that many really good performers.

Don't be so hard-sell with the show's anti-sex-trafficking message because some members of the audience don't like being lectured at so relentlessly—particularly when they've paid hundreds of pesos to watch the presentation. Perhaps the show can limit its added numbers, or make them shorter?

And don't do a monologue in two complete versions, because it bores viewers. Alternating between English and Tagalog lines would be a better ploy, as proven by the effectiveness of the only monologue done that way in the expanded version of the "VM" show.



Absolute Truth and Absolute Authority

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

HOW do we react when we learn the truth? It may be the that we have some terminal disease or truth that our spouse is having an extra-marital affair. Do we lose interest in living or do we feel liberated?

Freedom

While certain facts about life may be ugly, it is of the greatest benefit to us to know the truth. The Bible states that the truth shall set us free, and freedom leads to greater happiness and peace.

We must understand that a condition of ignorance and lack of knowledge binds us to a life of anger and frustration. When we are in illusion or *maya*, we are subject to confusion, doubts and mistakes. When we do not know reality, we are like children walking in the dark, like travelers lost in a dense forest.

Due to ignorance, we hurt ourselves or others. Even with the best intentions, we cause suffering to our loved ones due to our lack of wisdom and proper vision. Without the truth, it is difficult to help others and care for them.

Ultimate reality

The truth exists and the Absolute Truth is also the Absolute Authority. The Absolute Truth is the source of all knowledge and wisdom. The truth is not a matter of what the majority says it is. It comes from the Supreme Lawmaker and this truth prevails as the ultimate reality.

We do not need a college degree to understand truth, justice and freedom. We do not need to be judges or lawyers to tell right from wrong. We simply need to surrender to the Absolute Authority and dovetail our will with His. In this way, the veil of ignorance is lifted from our eyes.

Reality

When we take shelter in the Supreme Being, we are protected from the illusory energy by God Himself. When we accept the will of the Supreme, we harmonize with reality and learn to live in tune with the truth.

Even if we learn that we have a terminal disease, we also know that we are eternal spirit-souls and, although the body may perish, we will continue to exist forever. Even if we learn that our spouse has another beloved, we realize that the Supreme Lord is our real beloved and that He will love us unconditionally.

Kevin Spacey likes doing . . .

(From page F1)

teacher whose physical scars inform much deeper emotional scars. "He transfers his hope to his students, because he has no hope for himself. Emotionally, he is completely shut down," says the actor.

Find out more about Kevin Spacey's thoughts on "Pay It Forward" in the following interview.

Was it easy to say yes to this movie?

No. Sometimes I know like that [snaps fingers]. Like when I read "American Beauty," I knew like that [snap] that I wanted to do it.

Script

For me, it's always this: I read a script and I think—if it's affected me, if I've been moved by it in some way, if it's been interesting and dangerous and going in places I didn't expect—then I say I want an audience to feel what I felt when I first read it. I want them to have the same experience that I had when I sat on my bed and I read that script.

In the case of "Pay It Forward," I liked it immediately but I was very nervous about it. I knew Haley was cast which actually helped me a lot make the decision, because if there wasn't an actor who could do what this character has to do, who could have the spirit to make an idea like this work, then I didn't think there was a movie.

But I, of course, knew Haley's work and had talked to a number of people who had worked with him and said, "No, no. He's like 57 (years old)." So I knew we would be okay.

Do you think people would ever really pay it forward?

I love the way you framed the question because I think we have examples of this all the time. So I'd rather turn the question around and ask you, "What about you? Could you? In your darkest, most cynical, most tired, sitting in an outdoor café, on a job interview for the New York Times, and that guy, that homeless guy walks up to you who bugs you on the street because he smells a little bit and walks up to you now and his hand throws that cup in your face and he says, 'Man, help me out. I'm just trying to get something to eat.'

Reaction

What do you do? What reaction do you have at that moment? Is that a smelly bum who's annoying your job possibility? What do you do when you're standing on the elevator and you see someone running down the hallway and you're late for your appointment? Do you push 'Open' or do you push 'Close'?"

Those are smaller examples of the bigger idea of pay it forward, but those are examples that we have a choice every single day of our lives. And if you can turn it around and say, "In my most cynical, in my darkest spot of myself, as hard as it might be, yeah, that's the kind of person I want to be," then I think the answer to your question is yes.

But what about you personally? Do you think you're able to do it?

I do it all the time. That's why I wanted to do the movie. I had it done to me. I had teachers in my life when I was young that took me under their wing, that mentored me, that gave me confidence, gave me a sense of myself, gave me hope, gave me a place in the world.

People

If I hadn't met these people—and I know them to this day, my life would never have turned out the way it has.

After the incredible year you've had, do you have a feeling now that you've peaked?

No, because I don't think that way. If there are expectations about my work, my expectations are even higher, and they always have bee, and I've only really, really, honestly felt that I got close to doing what I wanted to do in a role in a film, in a play, maybe about four or five times. And that doesn't mean I think I achieve it.

So while all this attention happens on the outside and all this, for me what has been so moving the way the industry has embraced my work, I'm still just getting started.

And as long as I continue to think that, as long as I continue to feel that, and as long as I think I'm able to continue to choose material the same way I've been choosing material since I was in high school, I think I'll be alright.

Mick Jagger turns film producer with 'Enigma'

JAGGER. Not an easy sell.

BY DAVID GERMAIN

PARK CITY, Utah—Mick Jagger, independent filmmaker, sounds like any other producer at the Sundance Film Festival when he talks about the obstacles to capturing his story on celluloid.

Suitable talent

There are the problems of raising the cash, securing the film rights, lining up suitable talent to direct and act.

"I wanted to spend five years of my life producing one independent movie," Jagger jokes when asked why he tried his hand at making films with the spy thriller "Enigma," which premiered Monday night at Sundance.

"We had to spend lots of time getting the script right and raising the money, everything else that goes with making a film," the Rolling Stones singer said in an interview before the premiere.

"Enigma" stars Dougray Scott, Kate Winslet, Jeremy Northam and Saffron Burrows in a tale of romantic intrigue set among British codebreakers trying to unravel German U-boat ciphers during World War II.

Directed by Michael Apted ("The World Is Not Enough"), the movie is a thinking man's cousin to last year's "U-571." It's based on the novel by Robert Harris, with a screenplay by Tom Stoppard ("Shakespeare in Love").

Partner

This is the first finished movie by Jagged Films, the company Jagger and his producing partner, Victoria Pearman, formed in the mid-1990s. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels joined them on "Enigma" and worked with Jagger to secure the rights to the book.

While the project began as a studio film, the producers said they realized they needed to produce it independently to keep it true to its roots. Unlike "U-571," which made American sailors the heroes of Allied efforts to crack the U-boat codes, "Enigma" sticks to historical facts, with the British leading the deciphering effort.

"This was not an easy sell," said Jagger, who has acted in such mov-

MICK/F4

Now, beat "*biyahilo*" three ways

EVERY time you travel, you should enjoy the time spent on the way. But to many, there is always a looming treat – motion sickness or *biyahilo*. It always gets the better of you. *Sayang*. So many view to see on the road. So much fresh air to enjoy out at sea. And such a wonderful sight to see the world from the sky. Experiences to relish all spoiled by dizziness, cold sweat, weakness, a churning tummy, and nausea – the nagging discomforts of *biyahilo*.

It's all in your head

For all the frustration *biyahilo*, its time to know exactly why and how it happens. And how to prevent it.

Simply put, *biyahilo* is caused by a disagreement between what you feel and what you see while inside a moving vehicle. When inside a bus, boat or airplane, your body is stationary in your seat. But when you look out in the window, your eyes tell you that you are moving. Your brain gets confused. It detects no body movement, yet senses a forward motion, so the brain sends mixed signals to the balance organ in your ears. *Ayan, biyahilo na!*

No way cure

Wipe on aromatic oils and rubs. Sniff on a citrus peel. Take a candy. Sleep. Maybe even pop in a headache tablet. Familiar? You've done one or a combination of these to save yourself from the misery of *biyahilo*. But sorry, once its there, it will have to run its full course before it disappears. Sometimes taking hours. Worse, for the rest of the day.

You've heard it said: prevention is better than cure. Very true, especially for *biyahilo*! Yes, *biyahilo* can – and should be – prevented. How? Take Bonamine, *ang sadyang kontra-biyahilo*.

Three way prevention

Meclizine hydrochloride Bonamine is the only over-the-counter anti-motion/travel sickness medication widely trusted by Filipinos to prevent *biyahilo*. Just one tablet one hour before travelling shoos away *biyahilo's* looming threat, and keeps you protected for 24 hours.

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Shirley MacLaine remains a study in contrasts

BY BOB THOMAS

MALIBU, California—How do you explain Shirley MacLaine?

She leads a nomadic life, having gained her love of travel to exotic places while filming "Around the World in 80 Days" in 1955. Yet while many stars shed their advisers as often as their mates, she has employed the same agent and the same business manager for 45 years; the same publicist for 28 years.

Same apartment

When MacLaine visits Los Angeles, she stays in the same ocean-front apartment she bought with her first movie salary more than four decades ago.

"I like stability in my career and my life," she says.

Although her formal education halted at high school, she can talk intelligently on a wide variety of topics: politics, science, international relations, customs of the world, and more. She acts on her beliefs, having been a political activist, notably for Democratic candidates, most of her adult life.

MacLaine revealed another side of her persona in 1983 when she published the aptly titled "Out on a Limb," which presented her beliefs in spiritualism and reincarnation.

Jokes

This led to a spate of jokes by television comedians, whom she herself aided. "The comedy writers would call me up and ask how they could improve a joke," she says. "So I gave them the punch line, and it always got a big laugh.

"It was my idea to come out of a space ship at the Oscars. I told them it would be a sensation, and it was. I believe in the saying: 'He who laughs at himself never ceases to be amused.'"

"On a recent cloudless winter day, MacLaine sat amid the cluttered comfort of her Malibu apartment, which also serves as her office, and talked of myriad matters.

At 66, she retains that trademark gamin look—her short reddish locks framing her face. The surf provided an audible backdrop as it crashed menacingly 50 yards at sea, then, its force spent, lapped at the pilings of the building and others along the two-mile celebrity-soaked shoreline.

Less benevolent

There have been other times here when nature has been less benevolent. Malibu residents have grown accustomed to damaging surf, mudslides and brushfires. "Every three years I'm up on the roof, watering it down with a garden hose," MacLaine says. "When the TV crews come by, I tell them we should change our area code to 911."

MacLaine talked excitedly about her latest projects. Last year, she made her feature directing debut with "Bruno," a charming comedy-drama about a young boy who pursues his own desires despite the derision of those around him. ("Bruno" appeared on the Starz cable channel in December.)

MacLaine's other big job of late was acting with Elizabeth Taylor, Debbie Reynolds and Joan Collins in "These Old Broads," which will appear on ABC Feb. 12. (Like "Bruno," the movie couldn't find a theatrical distributor.)

Bawdy

The working experience was "so wittily bawdy, so eloquently bitchy, so humorously, sarcastically competitive with no competition whatsoever," she rhapsodizes. "It was my best time ever in making a film.

"Nobody was ever late, not even Elizabeth. We worked from 5 in the morning until 11:30 at night, and we made a 45-day picture in 22 days—not bad for four 'old broads.' We all knew each other for 35 years. I met Elizabeth when she was with Mike Todd on 'Around the World in 80 Days.' Debbie I have known forever, and Joan was engaged to my brother long ago."

MACLAINE. "I like stability in my career and my life."

That brother, of course, is Warren Beatty.

Extremely close as children, the lives of MacLaine and Beatty diverged as they struggled for success in show business.

When both became stars, they had little contact and often made good-humored but slighting remarks about each other in interviews: Shirley about Warren's philandering, Warren about Shirley's flights of mystic fancy.

Now in their mature years—he a husband and father, she an attentive mother and grandmother—they are proud of their families, and each other.

Focus on career

The siblings' similar interest in the issues of life and fervent focus on career can be attributed to their parents' influence, MacLaine says.

Her mother, Kathleen MacLean Beaty, yearned to be an actress but devoted herself to her family; she operated a drama school which both her children attended. Her father, Ira O. Beaty, was an educator with a wide knowledge of philosophy and psychology. Both parents imbued their children with curiosity and a work ethic.

Shirley MacLean Beaty was born April 25, 1934, in Richmond, Virginia. Henry Warren Beaty (both altered their names when they became actors) followed on March 30, 1937. Shirley was enrolled in a ballet class at 2 in an effort to strengthen her weak ankles. She and her brother haunted the Richmond movie houses every Saturday. She was given a quarter, spent 11 cents apiece for admission, 4 cents on candy.

Her favorite stars in those days? Rita Hayworth and Alan Ladd, although she was disillusioned years later when she was introduced to Ladd at a Hollywood nightspot and had to look down to see him.

Musical comedy

Her childhood love of ballet was thwarted because of her height ("I was 6 feet tall on point; no partner in the Western world was that tall.") At 16 she went to New York and concentrated on musical comedy, living in an all-women boarding house.

"No men were allowed past the foyer after 9. That's why I was a virgin so late," she recalls with a hearty laugh.

Her parents persuaded her to return to Richmond to finish high school. Immediately after graduation, she hurried back to New York. At 20 she had understudied Carol Haney and danced in the chorus of "Pajama Game." When Haney injured an ankle, MacLaine followed the "42nd Street" tradition and went out a youngster and came back a star. Producer Hal Wallis was in the audience and signed her to a Hollywood contract.

From the very beginning she was a star, directed by Alfred Hitchcock in "The Trouble with Harry." The movie, about an unwanted corpse, was Hitchcock's only attempt at black comedy, and it was a box-office dud. MacLaine went on to co-star with Martin and Lewis in "Artists and Models," then as the female lead in the Oscar winner and biggest moneymaker of 1956, "Around the World in 80 Days."

"Some Came Running" proved a landmark film for MacLaine in various ways.

Small-town floozie

"The part (of a small-town floozie) was written for Shelley Winters but for some reason Frank (Sinatra) didn't like her," MacLaine recounts. "He saw me on a TV show and said, 'Get her.'"

She soon found herself adopted as mascot of what became the Rat Pack, a fraternity of boozing, smoking, practical jokers headed by Sinatra and including Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop and Peter Lawford.

On the Indiana location of "Running," she played gin rummy with mob boss Sam Giancana. He cheated by placing her with her back to a window so he could see the reflection of her cards.

In the James Jones' novel from which the movie was adapted, the Sinatra character was shot at the end of the book. When the company returned to Hollywood, Sinatra told the producer, Sol Siegel: "Give the kid (MacLaine) the bullet. She'll get a nomination."

Indeed, her performance in that picture provided the first of her six Academy Award nominations (five for acting, one for making a documentary on China). She finally won as best actress in 1984 for "Terms of Endearment."

In 1954 she had married Steve Parker when both were actors in New York. She was 20, he was 32. He followed her to Hollywood, but soon tired of his role as Mr. MacLaine. He had spent some time in Japan, and he returned there to produce stage shows and movies.

Open marriage

"I had an open marriage: I was whoever I wanted, and he was too, and I liked that," she says.

The arrangement allowed her a number of affairs without any pressure to marry. (She and Parker eventually divorced.)

Their daughter, Stephanie Sachiko, was born in 1964. Called Sachi, the girl lived with her mother until she was six, then with her father in Japan. She bounced back and forth between parents, and MacLaine admits such a childhood may have been difficult for Sachi.

But she and her mother talk about it, and their relationship seems close. MacLaine spent the holidays in Connecticut with Sachi and her financier husband, Frank Murray, and their two children, Airin, 4, and Frank Jr., 2 1/2.

"Sachi tried to be an actress, but her higher priority was to have a regular family life, which she never had as a child," MacLaine says. "She was a little bit confused about whether she was Japanese or American ... You do the best you can for your children. It's better than being with a nanny in Beverly Hills."

Faraway places

MacLaine's career as a writer of books stems from her trips to learn about faraway places and peoples—"I think I've had this search for personal identity all my life."

She wrote a 36-pound manuscript, then, working in Malibu, trimmed it to publishable length. The result was "Don't Fall Off the Mountain," the first of her best sellers.

"I wanted to read books that were about other people's feelings and other people's lives; I wasn't terribly interested in novels," she explains. "As I traveled more and more, I realized that these spiritual issues were the underpinning of almost every culture. I spent a lot of time in India and I went to Peru and all over. These things were happening in the world, and nobody was writing about them.

MACLAINE. The Rat-Pack—Sinatra, Martin, Davis, Bishop and Lawford—adopted her as their mascot.

MACLAINE (right) as Eve in Cole Porter's version of Eden during a dance in "Can-Can" (1960).

"I wrote 'Out on a Limb' and kept it from being published for a year and a half. ... Then I decided to do it and sort of gave birth to a cottage New Age industry, where books were concerned."

Psychological dislocation

Her editor refused to publish "Out on a Limb," declaring, "I think you have a psychological dislocation." Bantam Books snapped it up immediately, and it became a hit in bookstores as well as on the TV comedy circuit.

MacLaine's concern with spiritual matters led her to New Mexico, where she bought an 8,000-acre ranch near Santa Fe five years ago.

"Most of the people around there with the native Indian culture are very involved with New Age thought and various approaches to spiritual thinking," she said. "I feel very much at home there ... It is indeed the Land of Enchantment." *AP*

Mick Jagger turns . . .

(From page F3)

ies as "Freejack." "It's an English movie without American actors and actresses. It's a difficult subject, and it's a relatively difficult ride."

Despite his and Michaels' fame, Jagger said "Enigma" came into Sundance much like any other independently financed film, with the producers hoping they could land a distribution deal.

Big-name people

"I figure that, in a way, Sundance is sort of changing," Jagger said. "It's not only unknown filmmakers anymore who bring films up here. Ours has got big-name people in it, but it's still an independent movie."

Jagger's company plans to produce a romantic drama about author-poet Dylan Thomas and his wife; as well as a film Jagger co-wrote with Martin Scorsese about two music-business partners whose careers span the 1960s to the present.

The singer also said he plans to act in his film company's movies. He co-stars with Andy Garcia in "Elysian Fields," due out this year.

"Enigma" entered Sundance as one of the hottest films available for acquisition. Jagger and Michaels said they were confident they would leave the festival with a distribution deal.

"We think obviously we're going to have a buyer, but it's interesting to see who in the movie industry thinks this is an interesting film and who says, 'Oh, we can't deal with it,'" Jagger said. "This is an intellectual film." *AP*

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2001, AN ENTERTAINMENT ODYSSEY

Implications of DGPI's breakaway move discussed

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

A WEEK after People Power 2, the Directors Guild of the Philippines, Inc. made a breakaway move of its own, withdrawing from the Film Academy of the Philippines.

Too beholden

It took that radical step to assert its independence from the FAP, which it felt was too beholden to the government and its old-boy ties with producers to do much good for its members and the viewing public that the movie industry is supposed to serve.

Now that it's an independent entity, the DGPI feels it can do much more to promote genuine progress and development on the local film scene.

The DGPI's move has had a sobering effect on the FAP, for the simple reason that the guild includes among its members most of the best and busiest movie directors in the land.

No formal links

Since directors are regarded as the "captains" of the "ship" of movie production, the DGPI's withdrawal from FAP membership has left the academy with no formal links to some of the industry's most important practitioners.

Some industry leaders are pooh-poohing the DGPI's "defection," pointing out that the FAP still has another directors' guild, the KDPP. Fine, but the fact is that the older guild doesn't have as many active directors among its members as the DGPI—and that's an understatement.

FAP film awards

So, whether the FAP formally admits it or not, the DGPI's withdrawal from its ranks is no minor loss. At the very least, it will reflect badly on the academy's annual film awards, because DGPI members won't be eligible for the Best Director category, since the awards honor only FAP members.

Sure, nominees can come from the KDPP, but they aren't really known for megging the best movies in town—and that's another understatement.

So, while the other film awards groups can still nominate DGPI members in their Best Director category, the FAP awards could have a pretty lame version starting this year, because the finalists won't reflect the best achievement in the field of film direction.

Rule

That's an embarrassing probability, but it isn't the most crucial aspect of this problem, by any means. You see, the FAP has this rule that only academy members can be hired to do film work in this country.

Now that the DGPI people have ceased to be FAP members, will this mean that they can no longer direct movies here? That would be a huge problem, since DGPI members meg about 70 percent of the films shot locally.

JOEY Reyes, DGPI head.

Obviously, something's got to give. Will the FAP relax its rule? Are the DGPI members prepared to go jobless for the duration of this impasse? Can producers really do without the services of some of the country's best directors?

Artificial lack

And, how would moviegoers react to this troubling state of affairs? The last thing the movie industry needs is yet another slump, this time created by an artificial lack of good directors.

* * *

After writing the above section, we were able to talk to a movie industry leader who informed us that the DGPI-FAP rift may not come to as big a head as originally thought. Reason? Because the FAP may relax its "members only" rule when it comes to working on films locally.

Dilemma

If this does transpire, perhaps the FAP film awards dilemma may also cease to be a problem. Our resource person didn't quite go this far, but perhaps the academy could also decide to include DGPI members for consideration in deliberations for the FAP Best Director award. That would make the award more truly reflective of achievement in direction on the local film scene.

All these putative moves would help clear the air and make it possible for the FAP and the DGPI to coexist, albeit apart from each other--until an accommodation acceptable to both parties can be effected.

Utilizing private funding, the DGPI will launch its own film development projects, while the FAP will continue to sustain its own. It would be up to film people and moviegoers to see which group's efforts will be more truly beneficial to the industry and its audience.

Zsa Zsa Padilla performs at the Big Dome

ZSA ZSA Padilla teams up with Lani Misalucha and Freestyle in a Valentine concert to be held on Feb. 14 at the Araneta Coliseum under the musical direction of Louie Ocampo.

Zsa Zsa is a regular on "ASAP" and "Labs Ko Si Babe" and also appeared in Viva Films' "Ika-13 Kapitulo."

MONTAGE

Kuh at Hard Rock Cafe

Kuh Ledesma returns to Hard Rock Cafe in a Valentine concert, "Symphony in K" on Feb. 14. The Manila Philharmonic string section with Rey Cristobal as musical director joins Kuh in this musical event. Showtime is at 9 p.m.

On regular days music lovers can enjoy Hard Rock's nightly bands: Pido with Take One on Mondays; Mulatto on Tuesdays; League of Cayuk's on Wednesdays; Silk on Thursdays; Next Level back to back with Parliament Syndicate on Fridays; Big on Saturdays; Limited Edition on Feb. 4; Put3Ska on Feb. 11; Arnel Pineda and the Glass on Feb. 18 and 25.

For details, call 893-46661.

A memorable year for Franco

"Keep on Dancing" host Franco Laurel releases a new album as a follow-up to his first solo release last year. Produced by Eugene Villaluz, the album features popular composers and arrangers like Moi Ortiz, Andre Castillo, Edith Gallardo, Danny Tan, Dodjie Simon, Jimmy Borja, Trina Belamide, Lito Vilareal, Homer Flores, Marvin Querido and newcomer Vincent Vonghaiham.

The singer confesses, "I am in love. With my work, my music and this very special woman. I am so inspired and I guess that would make the year 2001 my most memorable year."

'Blair Witch' promo

"The Blair Witch Project" premieres exclusively on Star Movies tomorrow at 9 p.m. Viewers will get a chance to win a brand new Sony PC 100E Digital Handycam through an online contest, "Watch and Win with Blair Witch."

To join, watch for the question following the credits of the film. To enter the contest, log on to www.startv.com/blairwitch and fill out an answer form on the website. The contest pages will be available online starting at 5 p.m. tomorrow until the contest ends Feb. 11 at 11:59 p.m. Winners will be contacted via e-mail and will be announced on the website by Friday, Feb. 16.

Tribute to Audrey

On the day after what would have been Audrey Hepburn's 70th birthday, Star Movies' "Celebrity Profile" features an in-depth look at the storied life and career of the venerable actress and philanthropist on Monday, Feb. 5 at 7 a.m.

The program includes footage of Audrey in her first film appearance in "Netherlands in Seven Lessons" as well as her last TV interview.

Elephant power

National Geographic Channel meets the majestic animal of Burma in the program "Elephant Power" today at 9 p.m. In the heart of forbidden Burma, nearly one-third of all Asian elephants live in the wild forest. Follow a herd of wild elephants for a year. See them live in their natural habitat. Watch them face the perils created by modernization.

'Viva After Dark'

Viva Cinema presents hot love stories on "Viva After Dark" featuring Michelle Aldana, Ynez Veneracion, Stella Ruiz, Criselda Volks and Rita Magdalena.

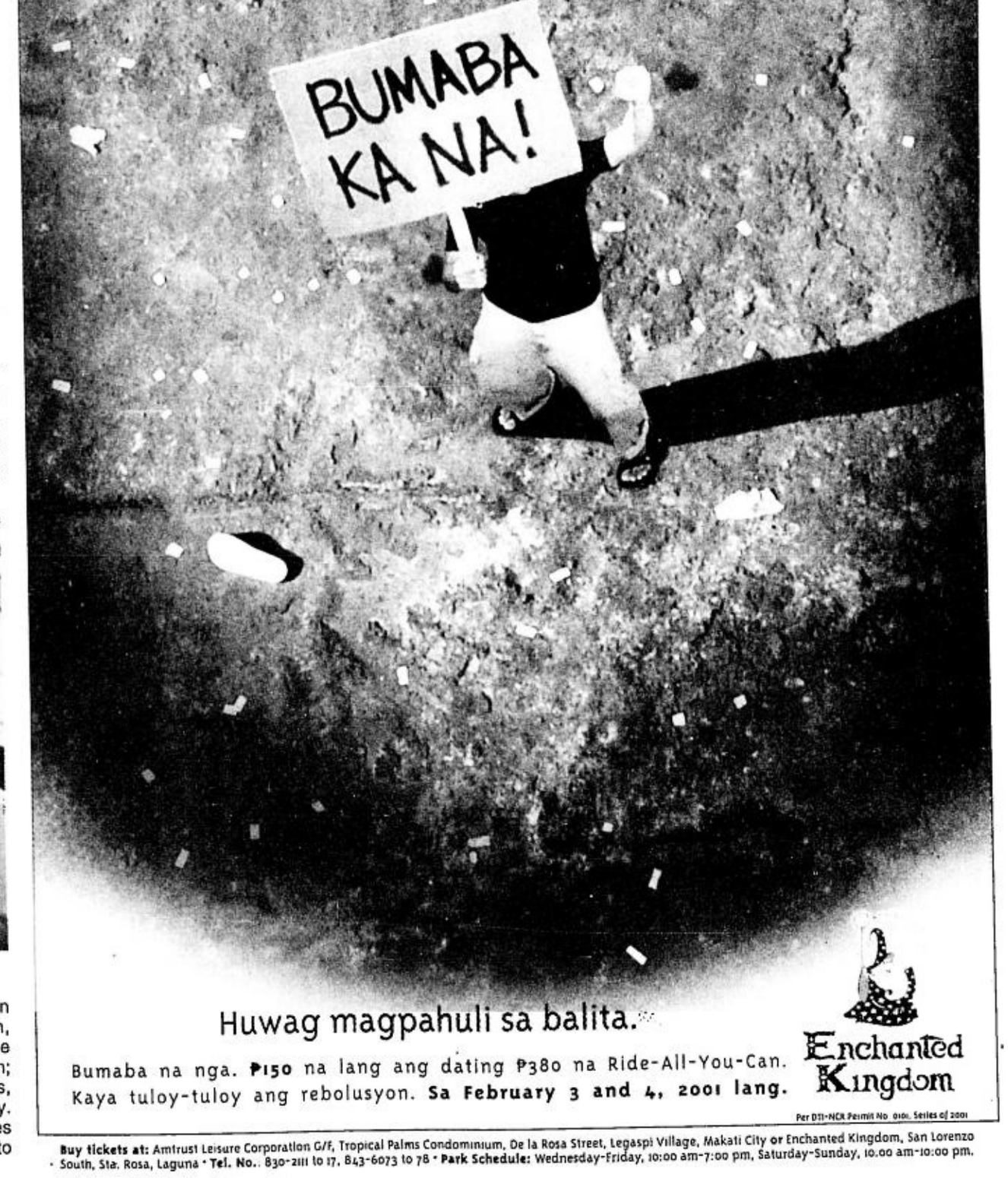
Michelle plays an insurance agent who will do anything to sell a policy on "Segurista" airing at midnight tonight.

Sabrina plays a substiute teacher who seduces her students just to get back at an unfaithful boyfriend in "Ma'am, Turuan Mo Ako."

Stella plays a mystery girl who descends on a fishing village and stirs up a storm by carrying on with two of the village's most coveted bachelors in "Sambahin Mo Ang Katawan Ko" on Feb 11 at 12 mn.

Also watch Ynez in "Tumakas Ka sa Mundong Makasalanan" on Feb. 18 at 12 mn, Criselda in "Uod ng Laman" on Feb. 24 at 12 mn and Rita in "Wanted: GRO" on Feb. 25 at 12 mn.

EL AL OFFICE INAUGURATED
El Al Israel Airlines recently inaugurated its newly renovated office at the Raha Sulayman building, 108 Benavides st., Makati City. Shown are (back row, from left) Rene Dubalan, Glenndee Pineda, Jojo Villanueva, Marian Taparo; Regional Director for Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean, Shali Zhavi; GM for China, Hong Kong, East Asia and Oceania, Angel Weinstein; Golden Bear Travel Corp. President Atty. Jolly Gomez; (front row, from left) Mylene Sagles, Liza Obligado; GM for Philippines and Guam Tess Arvisu, Erica Guzman and Irene Manguhay. With more flights to the Holy Land than any other airline, El Al Israel Airlines brings all the sites of significance faster and more conveniently. This year, it will double its frequency of flights to Asia from six to 11 a week.



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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Plus One launches its debut album

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

THE MEMBERS of the boy band, Plus One, attribute their debut album, "The Promise" to hard work, friendship and God's love. From the first day of rehearsals, they made a commitment to be marked as much by service as by their music. When they were in San Francisco, they volunteered a couple of times a week to work in a center for homeless families. They also participated in a week-long "radical reconciliation" in Alabama.

"That experience put some things in perspective for us. Experiencing how we could help was amazing," Nate Cole says.

"Anyone can sing about God but we knew that, until we had something to say with our lives, our songs would be empty," Jason Perry interjects.

"We are committed to sharing our faith in our music. But our faith also tells us that it's better to love our neighbors than lecture them. If you listen more than you speak, you can get a lot done. Just show love, acceptance and tolerance," Jeremy Mhire urges.

Boy bands are a dime a dozen and they all stress their commitment to music and to their listeners. What sets Plus One apart from other boy bands?

"Guys with good voices are a dime a dozen in Los Angeles. But chemistry, that's another story. Plus One works because we are not just five guys singing next to each other. We've worked our socks off from the beginning to connect and click," Nathan Walters avers.

"Exactly—we have to become more than just five good singers. Our job is to become one great group, to find that path, through hard work and lots of time together, to those moments when we're genuinely one when we sing," Nate adds.

PRATTS. A full taping schedule.

Nate reveals that they spent nearly a year of non-stop preparation, rehearsing, researching, recording, serving and living together.

"In some ways, we're very different but it's our differences that make us interesting as friends and as a group. I'm learning how we each bring something special to everything we do and it's the ways in which we differ that allow us to be more than just ordinary. We're pretty laid-back, we shop, watch movies, play pool and shuffleboard. We do normal stuff," Jeremy shares.

Jeremy claims that working with 14-time Grammy Award-winning songwriter David Foster and hearing their song on the radio are the high points in their career to date.

"To hear our song on the radio was amazing. I've been dreaming of that since I was a kid, and seeing it finally happen seemed unreal. We were hanging out in a restaurant, we kept complaining because people were saying that they heard our song but we hadn't heard it yet. Then we went to our car, turned on the radio and heard it. I freaked out, I jumped on the car. The guys were dancing around the parking lot," Jeremy grins.

PLUS ONE. Their album is a product of hard work, friendship and God's love.

So is that the most memorable song for them?

"It's weird but 'America, the Beautiful' is a song that means a lot to me now. We performed that song during the LA Lakers games and it just lifted our spirits," Jeremy smiles.

Camille Pratts dreams on

Camille Pratts admits that she was taken out of the cast of "Oki Doki Doc" before the sitcom ended last year because of her full taping schedule. Right now she tapes for "Marinella," "G-Mik," and "Ariba, Ariba" within the week and acts as the image model for the teen line, Crimson.

Being an image model does not interfere with her acting career. She believes that it enhances her image. "I'm flattered to be an image model. *Mahilig na ako sa mga damit. Puwede din akong mag-suggest ng mga* designs *na gusto ko. Mahilig ako sa mga* colorful *at* trendy *na mga damit.* Favorite color *ko ang* pink."

Camille also enjoys hanging out with the cast of the soap, "Marinella." She's so comfortable with them that she treats them like her second family. "*Masaya kami sa* set *kaya nga nakakalungkot na malapit nang matapos ang* 'Marinella.' *Hindi ko lang alam kung kailan talaga matatapos, basta* within the year."

TIME AND A HALF. "Performing is a reward in itself."

She might soon put her dramatic skills on hold, but she looks forward to new opportunities. She dreams of waxing an album someday, and plans to take voice lessons soon.

Time & A Half grooves

Time and a Half recently performed at the Chef and Brewer Bar in Ortigas for the Crossover monthly party. Their music has a soothing and relaxing feel to it. How do they manage to do it?

"We blend well because we have great respect for each other's capabilities. We also made the rounds of the music lounges, hotels and discos in Manila so we have learned to adapt to what the audience wants," vocalist Tammy de Silva enthuses.

"We like to pursue the perfect sound. We are just a piece of clay but we want to be a piece of art," vocalist Allan Cantos adds.

They sang covers like "Laughter in the Rain," "Tattooed on my Mind," "Rock With You," "Best Days," "Feel Like Making Love" and "Fast Love" to an audience of yuppies, students and expats. They didn't seem to mind the unpredictable reactions (from spontaneous applause to deafening silence) to their songs.

"We just want to perform and reach a large music-loving segment in Manila. Performing is a reward in itself," Tammy shares.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB. 3 – 9

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E 31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Star Drama Theater 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 Loren / "F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11:15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eazy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Kakababaka 8:00 Kiss Muna 9:30 GMA's BEST 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 The 700 Club 1:00 Jesus Miracle Crusade	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Conan 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Bed of Roses* 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	4:00 MBA 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Party of Five 9:30 Studio 23 *Sleepless in Seattle* 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 El Special 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show 11:00 Wild On 12:00 Search Party
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanalaym 8:30 Richard Loves Lucy 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents *Mr. Jones* 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugal 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Sultada 11:00 Business & Leisure 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6:30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mair! 9:00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11:30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 GMA Love Stories 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Sunday Night Specials 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 A Little Night of Music 1:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8:30 Stark Raving Mad 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Estrada Presidency	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Timecop 7:00 Dawson's Creek 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Will and Grace 9:00 Veronica's Closet 9:30 Wasteland 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 Talk Soup 7:00 60 Minutes 8:00 El Special 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 11:00 Celebrity Profile 12:00 Talk Soup 12:30 FYEI
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 7:30 Freakazoid 8:00 By Request 9:00 Spy Games 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Beach Patrol 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9:30 Tuwing Kapiling Ka 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club 12:30 Midnight Prayer Helps	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Dives 7:00 Greed 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Time of Your Life 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Secret Lives of Men 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show 11:00 Wild On
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 G.I. Joe 7:30 Superman (Animated) 8:00 Hercules 9:00 Team Knight Rider 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11:30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Monster Rancher 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 11:30 700 Club 12:00 Pulpit of Christ	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:00 Rising Stars of Billiards 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 MTV Most Wanted 7:00 Greed 7:30 Popular 8:30 Beverly Hills 90210 9:30 Then Came You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Secret Lives of Men 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show 11:00 Wild On
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Katapat, Fred Lim 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sabrina 7:30 Suddenly Susan 8:00 Frasier 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Musika Atbp 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ben Bole Nga 9:00 Codename: Verano 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 It's A Miracle 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	7:00 Fantasy Island 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 The Explorer 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show 11:00 Wild On
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Assignment 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover Year 2 12:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Monster Rancher 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 700 Club 12:30 Word of Hope	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Buffy, The Vampire Slayer 9:00 Felicity 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 6:30 Be Seen @ MTV 7:00 Greed 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show 11:00 Wild On
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Digimon 8:00 Young Hercules 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Juille 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sliders 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Fushigi Yuugi 8:30 Bubble Gang 10:00 What Went Wrong 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Malcolm in the Middle 8:30 Dharma and Greg 9:00 The Truth and Nothing But 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Monster By Mistake 6:30 Batman 7:00 Greed 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Snoops 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Citiline 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show 11:00 Wild On

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'Thirteen Days' combines fact and fiction

BY BOB TOURTELLOTTE

LOS ANGELES—It is not like John F. Kennedy and the 1962 Cuban missile crisis that nearly led the world into nuclear war have not been picked over countless times in news stories, magazines, books, movies and television programs.

Conspiracy theories

And it is not like Kevin Costner has never starred in a film about President Kennedy. He has, in "JFK," Oliver Stone's 1991 film about conspiracy theories on Kennedy's assassination.

So why is Costner producing and starring in "Thirteen Days," which opened in US theaters on Jan. 12, with an insider's look at decisions by Kennedy, brother Robert and White House officials that steered the world away from a possible nuclear war?

He swears it is not just a "star turn," Hollywood jargon for a chance to headline marquees in a high-profile project. Costner told reporters that doing "Thirteen Days" was a chance to show how men found a way to navigate their way out of a deadly confrontation rather than marching headlong into one.

"This was a proud moment for us all," he said. "The fact is that in those 13 days their decisions were made based on conscience, not on the next election, not on the polls."

Memoirs

"Thirteen Days" is a fictional story culled by screenwriter David Self from months of research, White House tapes, CIA documents, personal interviews and memoirs.

While all of the events are not true, because they recount conversations only the Kennedys and their aides hear, the filmmakers say the dramatizations adhered to the facts as they know them, and the private talks between the two brothers attempt to put a human face on men who have become legends.

"It's impossible to tell a true story on film ... to satisfy everyone who is involved in any one event," producer Armyan Bernstein said.

COSTNER. Plays a presidential aide.

"That's all anybody can do with these types of films."

Costner added, "We can't be 100 percent accurate, and we don't claim to be."

The unfolding events of "Thirteen Days" are told through the eyes of presidential aide Kenneth O'Donnell (played by Costner), a Second World War veteran and a classmate of Robert Kennedy. The two played together on the Yale University football team, and when they graduated O'Donnell went to work on John Kennedy's US Senate and presidential campaigns.

Insider

Ultimately, O'Donnell wound up as a top Kennedy insider and political strategist and he was part of their trusted inner circle as the Cuban missile crisis unfolded in October of 1962.

At that time, the Kennedy White House was in turmoil. The president's self-confidence had been shaken by the Bay of Pigs debacle the previous year and he trusted very few of the generals and cabinet officials around him.

Many Americans shared a growing distrust of the young president, who had been elected over Vice President Richard Nixon by a razor-thin margin in 1960.

With that backdrop, the Soviet Union under Nikita Khrushchev was building launching pads and installing nuclear missiles aimed at the United States in Cuba, just 90 miles from Florida and minutes away from striking US cities.

Kennedy could not allow that to happen. The film takes moviegoers from the initial reports of the missiles and photographs from U-2 spy planes shown to the president to military and political strategy sessions and cabinet meetings.

War rooms

When the US Navy blockades Cuba, audiences go into the Pentagon war rooms where Kennedy evaluates all his moves, and when jet fighters fly low-level reconnaissance missions over the missile sites, audiences go there, too.

To breathe some reality into the filmmaking, director Roger Donaldson blends in old news footage from the 1960s, giving parts of "Thirteen Days" a documentary-like feel. But it is a pair of relatively little-known actors, Bruce Greenwood as John Kennedy and Steven Culp as Robert Kennedy, that lend the film humanity as they share their concerns and fears in private.

Their interaction puts a complex story that is difficult to understand on a human scale. In a pivotal scene in which Bobby Kennedy negotiates the Soviet withdrawal, he comes across as genuinely frightened that he will not be able to seal a deal. It is as if he is keeping a stiff upper lip while two fingers are crossed behind his back at all times.

"There is lightning in a bottle when you can take a story as complicated as the Cuban missile crisis and make it understandable, and as heroic and humane as this one is," Costner said. "In those 13 days they flew in the face of the most awesome pressure any of us could imagine and kept saying, 'No,' 'No.' to nuclear war." *Reuters*

Marissa Sanchez goes bold—just for the laughs

SANCHEZ. Has been singing for 20 years.

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

SINGER-COMEDIENNE Marissa Sanchez joins the bold bandwagon with her debut album, "Magbati Na Tayo." Unlike Jessa Zaragoza and Ara Mina, who have also waxed albums that capitalize on their sexy image, Marissa is in it for the laughs.

In fact, although many of the cuts in the album have suggestive titles like "Fax Me," and "Dahan-Dahanin Mo," the lyrics are quite tame. Leave it to Andrew E, who is responsible for a lot of the compositions. Other cuts in the album are "X-Men," ""If Only I Can," "BQ," "Labi Mo" and "Alam Mo Ba."

Whistle-bait figure

While Marissa may be no match to Jessa and Ara when it comes to having a whistle-bait figure, she can compete when it comes to music. She's been singing for 20 years, starting out at the Bodega music lounge, where she earned only P30 a night. Even before she turned professional, she was already interested in singing as a member of a church choir. Her mom taught her the basics but it was Marissa who developed her musicality on her own.

Her life has been a continuous struggle to earn her keep and get noticed in the highly competitive show biz scene. When her dad died, she became the family breadwinner. Finally, in the late '90s, things began to come her way.

Marissa started to attract a following at the Hyatt's Calesa Bar where patrons enjoyed her singing as well as her comedy. She's grateful to TV host Julie Yap-Daza, who started plugging her show after Julie watched her perform at the Hyatt.

Comedy

The shift to comedy was brought about by her realization that comedians stay long in the business. Singers lose their voice and, worse, their following, but comedians can reach a ripe old age before they retire from the business—if they retire at all.

So, although Marissa acknowledges that music is her first love, it is in comedy where she wants to try her luck. She admits that she delivers risque jokes when she performs before live audiences but she tries to apply the brakes when she finds that she's gone overboard.

She can be seen daily on Channel 2's noontime show, "MTB" where she hosts the "Sing-A-Gong" portion. She is also a regular on "ASAP" and the weekly sitcom "Pwedeng Pwede."

A dream fulfilled

With her album, Marissa is able to blend music and comedy for a wider audience. It is a dream fulfilled. She has always wanted to come out with an album but no record company has ever tried to take a chance on the comedienne. But, when Viva's Vic del Rosario watched her perform at the Hyatt, he decided she had what it takes to sell albums.

If the album does well, it will be a well-deserved break for Marissa, who can claim that she has invaded most of the entertainment media – live acts, TV and now, the recording industry.

Two dependable actors wish for a better year for the industry

Pen and Raven made their impressive big-screen acting debut in Ishmael Bernal's 1980 opus, 'Himala,' and they have done outstanding work ever since

BY JOCELYN VALLE

FOR Pen Medina and Ray Ventura, life in and out of jail is the same. The dependable actors haven't served time behind bars but they have tasted it vicariously through the people they met in Sta. Cruz (Laguna) provincial jail, where 70 percent of "Deathrow," was filmed.

Reflection

Raven (Ventura's nickname) played the prison's *mayor* while Pen was his deputy, who maneuvered his way to power. "It's a reflection of society," says Pen, explaining that a "free" man can likewise be detained by his own ego and ambition—"*ang deathrow ng buhay*."

He has only two choices, Pen continues. It's either he becomes worse or he turns a new leaf. In the GMA Films presentation, the protagonist, a minor offender (Cogie Domingo), learned to redirect his life with the help of an "untouchable" prisoner (Eddie Garcia) and some kind-hearted inmates.

On the other hand, Pen's character went deeper into the depths of wickedness as he killed the *mayor* and wreaked havoc in the slammer.

More professional

"Deathrow" was Raven's first assignment with GMA Films, and he commends the way the producers compensate their actors. Unlike other film companies that delay payment until dubbing sessions have been completed or the film has been shown, the company headed by Butch Jimenez and Jimmy Duavit is more professional in its dealings.

That's the reason why, Pen says, he hasn't turned down any offer from GMA Films, thus appearing in all of its movies ("Sa Pusod ng Dagat," "Jose Rizal," "Muro-Ami" and "Deathrow").

Pen and Raven are similarly awed by veteran actor-director Eddie Garcia's professionalism. "*Hindi ka maniniwalang 'yun ang edad nya*," they grin, adding that Manoy was the epitome of coolness during the entire shoot. "*Kami pa nga 'yung maraming* suggestion *sa direktor*," they laugh.

Essaying the roles of evil jail dominators is not unlike the way Raven and Pen have portrayed their past roles.

Favorite nominees

Both had impressive debuts in Ishmael Bernal's 1980 opus, "Himala," and they have since delivered felt peformances in their succeeding works in film, theatre and on TV. No wonder they are favorite nominees in the best supporting actor category of most award-giving bodies.

Medina has won a best actor award from the Asian Television Awards for "Sandakot na Lupa" and best supporting actor citations for "Sakay" and "Muro-Ami." Ventura hasn't been as lucky but his nominations for "Broken Marriage," "Hinugot sa Langit," "Mumbaki" and "Bayad-Puri" more than validate his acting prowess.

The focus is always on the character, Pen and Raven point out, in their effort to give life and nuances to their roles. Playing a bad guy doesn't bother both men, who are loving fathers in real life. In fact, it excites them.

Bad side

"*Dito mo kasi magagawa 'yung mga bagay na 'di mo magagawa sa totoong buhay*," relates Pen. "At the same time we are able to show the bad side of life. *Hindi naman p'wedeng puro good*."

MEDINA. Felt performances.

VENTURA. Acting prowess.

Raven nods: "*Mas nakakapag-eksperimento kami sa* character – *lalo na kung may oras*."

Raven and Pen recognize the beating local movies took the past year. "*Pati naman sa* Hollywood, *dahil na rin sa* popularity *ng* cable *at saka* sa piracy. *Makakapanood ka naman sa bahay*, so *bakit ka pa lalabas*?" asks Raven, who admits having the same attitude.

With the good showing of most movies in the recent filmfest, Pen and Raven are optimistic that the movie industry will be back in business.

They just wish that there will be more film lovers in the industry, so that the focus on good scripting and direction will be reestablished.

That goes double for us!

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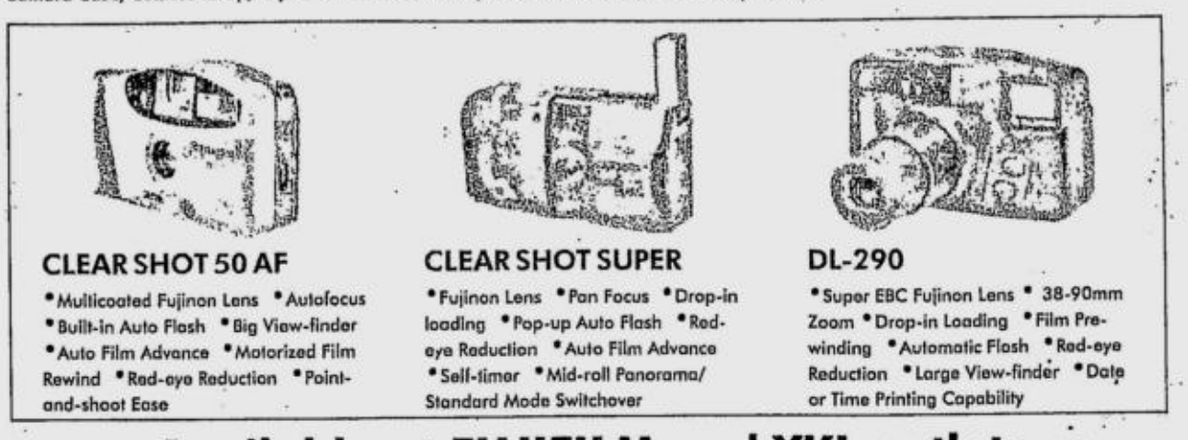
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De La Salle U presents tribute to Sylvia La Torre

BY JULIEN MENDOZA

I'VE just had the privilege of interviewing an artist whom I consider to be the pioneer of Philippine pop music, the original pop diva, the Queen of the Kundiman, a comic actress and a wonderful person—Ms Sylvia La Torre.

Fond memories

I was already in awe just a few minutes into our conversation. She brought back fond memories of my childhood. She was the first singer who brought the classical style to the masses, through her sketches with performers like Eddie San Jose, Oscar Obligacion and Doro de los Ojos.

But who is Sylvia La Torre? To the text generation, the Gen X, Y, Z or what have you, let's get to know her once more:

She was five years old when she was introduced to the world of show business. Sylvia was encouraged and taught by her mother to sing—and sing she did!

She started acting in movies and played bit roles in the pre-WW2 productions of Philippine Films, where her father worked as production manager.

During the Japanese occupation, she performed at Life Theater in downtown Manila with the likes of Rogelio dela Rosa, Norma Blancaflor, Tony Santos Sr., Leroy Salvador and the comic tandem of Pugo and Tugo.

Another child actor and her partner, Tito Pangan, went on to become the legendary Chiquito. "*Sa mga palabas namin, grabe ang iyakan noon.* I was with the best!" she recalls. She was eight years old.

Sylvia continued performing when she joined the USO during Liberation. She recalls singing on mess hall tables for US soldiers every night, and how she and her brother would bring home *bayongs* of dollars and trays full of food to her mom.

LA TORRE. Started singing when she was only five years old.

SYLVIA, with comedian Doro de los Ojos, in the variety show, "Everyday Holiday."

SYLVIA (second from right) with "Oras ng Ligaya" co-hosts Oscar Obligacion, Chichay and Vic Pacia.

Soldier's helmet

Her singing brought tears to her audience whenever she sang "Ave Maria," the finale number of her act. She even remembers how she'd be able to fill up a soldier's helmet with money from singing in restaurants

It was then that she met Paul, an American, who introduced her to western music. "He taught me how to sing songs like 'You Are My Sunshine,' 'Don't Fence Me In,' etc..." Sylvia remembers. This western influence proved useful in shaping her pop singing style.

Years later, she was signed up by Villar Records to record songs by composers Leopoldo "Polding" Silos and Jun Silos Sr. One of her first hits was "Hahabol-habol," an amusing song about courtship. The song was part of a series that later included "Dadaldal-daldal" and "Kikisig-kisig."

She was also an actress on the silver screen. She played Ramon Revilla's leading lady in "Ulila ng Bataan" in 1952 for Sampaguita Pictures. Later on, she became a TV performer as well, in variety shows like "Oras ng Ligaya" with Oscar Obligacion and Bobby Gonzalez, "Joey and Son," etc.

Then she moved to the US in the mid-'80s. I asked her why, and she candidly shared, "*Ayaw na nilang magpakanta ng mga lumang tugtugin.*" She says that producers would let her sing old songs only if they were part of a comedy sketch.

There was a change in Pinoys' musical taste. This was probably due to the New Wave invasion and the start of MTV. At the advent of OPM, the focus on the music scene was on the musical style of the West. The *bagets* generation did not show much support for the "classics" anymore.

But Sylvia enjoyed her stay in the US, where she performed for homesick Filipinos. There, she says, the audience was more appreciative of her music. She continued singing *kundiman* songs at various fundraisers.

Finale

At the finale of every show, she would ask the audience to sing along to "Waray-Waray," her trademark song. She is saddened by the fact that she was, and still is, more appreciated abroad than in her homeland.

Sylvia hopes that, with the present political leadership, there can be more support for the arts, particularly, the *kundiman* and original Filipino pop music. Among today's singers, she likes the vocal range and power of Regine Velasquez.

She recently arrived from the US, and she plans to stay here for a while. She's "testing the waters," weighing her options in the Philippines. There are plans to put up some live shows, and to wax an album in the near future. There is also a musical tribute to her this month at De La Salle University. Those are some things to look forward to.

Come to think of it, it is sad that we have put the pioneer of Philippine Pop to one side, there to witness the slow death of our traditional songs. Visit a record bar these days and you might find tapes of her immortal songs that exude the Filipino spirit like "Madaling-Araw," "Bituing Marikit," "Sa Kabukiran," "Kalesa," "Galawgaw" and "Waray-Waray" in a separate rack in the Filipiniana section, while the rest of the Filipino albums, most of them poor imitations of American boy bands, pop, rap and metal groups, are in the OPM section.

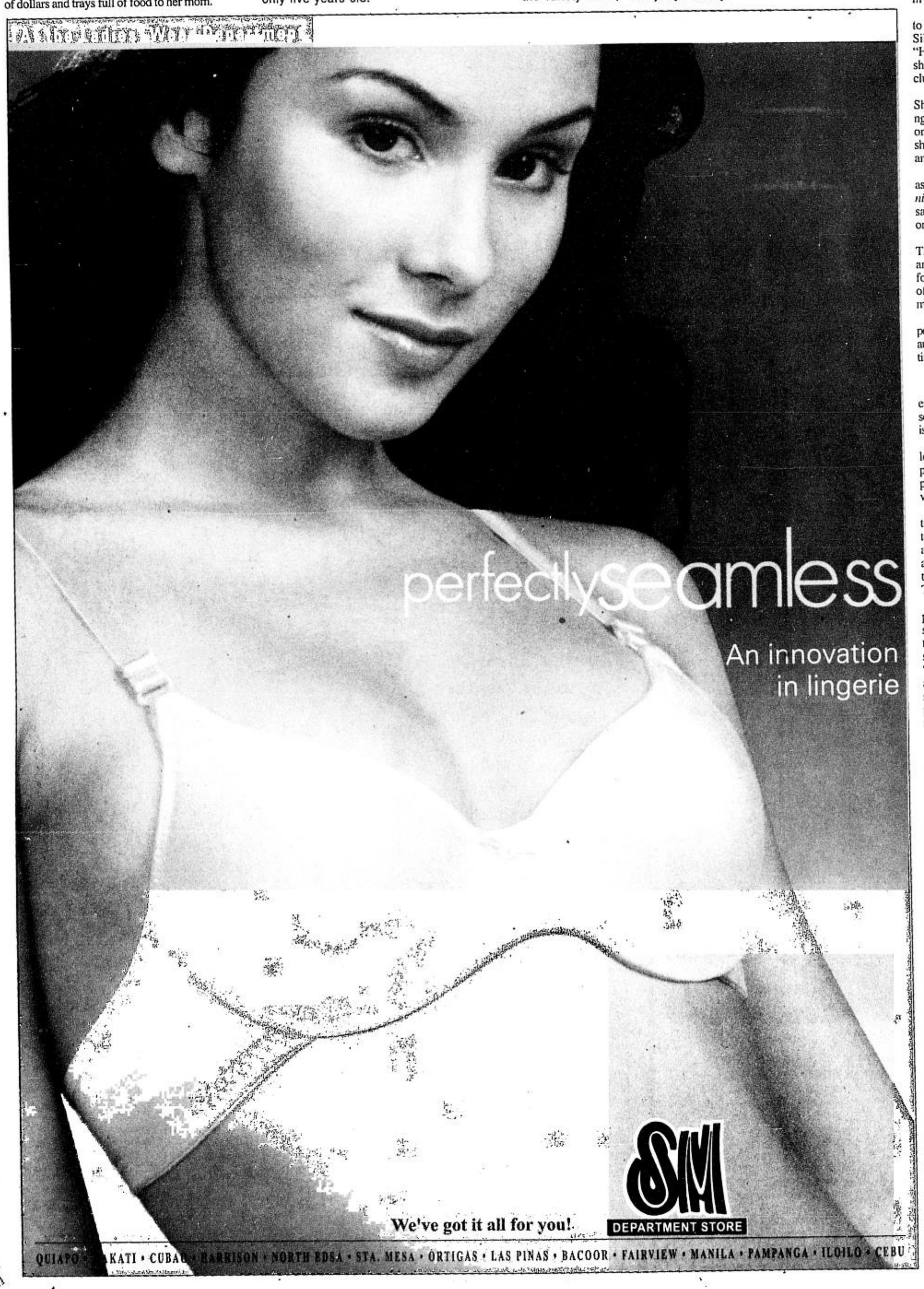
Dignity

We are at the start of a new millennium, the beginning of a new government. We have just regained our dignity as a people. With dignity comes pride in our cultural heritage as Filipinos.

Let us start by appreciating our past and bridging the gap between the old and the new. The music of the past defines what we were then as a nation. Let us hold on to that heritage and use it to mold our culture for the future.

On Feb. 23, the De La Salle University Cultural Arts Office is presenting a tribute to Sylvia in "An Evening of Fine Music." The show will feature her songs and will showcase the talents of the Harlequin Theater Guild, the Chamber Ensemble, Innersoul, Booties and the DLSU Dance Troupe, with the special participation of the legend herself.

THREE YOUNG TALENTS
Nikki Silva (R), Katherine Ferreras (L), and Jubilee Vecino (C) are the Angels of the Center for Pop Music, Phils., (CPMP). They have an upcoming concert on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Manila, directed by Butch Albarracin, founder and executive director of CPMP. Tickets available at the concert venue.



Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 17

WWW.INQUIRER.NET

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Kid Power!

Kids make history in People Power II

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

LOOK behind a P500 bill. That kid offering flowers to a soldier is a real person. His name is Angelo Gutierrez. He was in Edsa in 1986 just as many of you were, with your families, from Jan. 16 to 20, 2001.

That Tuesday night, countless parents stood with their children outside their homes while others headed for the Edsa Shrine. They were banging pots and shouting protests, angry at the unfairness they had just seen on their TV screens. Those kids were the first to see an entire page in our history turn.

The next day dawned and more people trooped to Edsa. Classes were suspended and many students joined the rallies. More families came with their kids. **JI** writer, 13-year-old Jeiflyn Dizon, was

Kid/p.4

MANY kids felt Estrada was a "bad example." BOBBY TIMONERA

'We Want to Be Part of History...'

INTERVIEWS BY NIÑA ALIPIO, JEIFLYN DIZON, GABRIEL MARTIN DOLLER, ANTOINETTE JADAONE, YORADYL LEOBRERA, AARON DANTE MAMIIT, XIOMARA QUIÑONES, AND LOUELLA YU

"I JOINED my family because I thought my mom would buy the shoes I really wanted in Robinsons but I ended up cheering with the crowd, asking Erap to resign. Well, I joined People Power II because I wanted to be a part of history and to stand up, let my small voice be heard. I was praying so hard that Erap would resign because I've heard a lot of bad things about him."

—***Paulyn De Jesus**, 11, Marilao Elementary School, Bulacan*

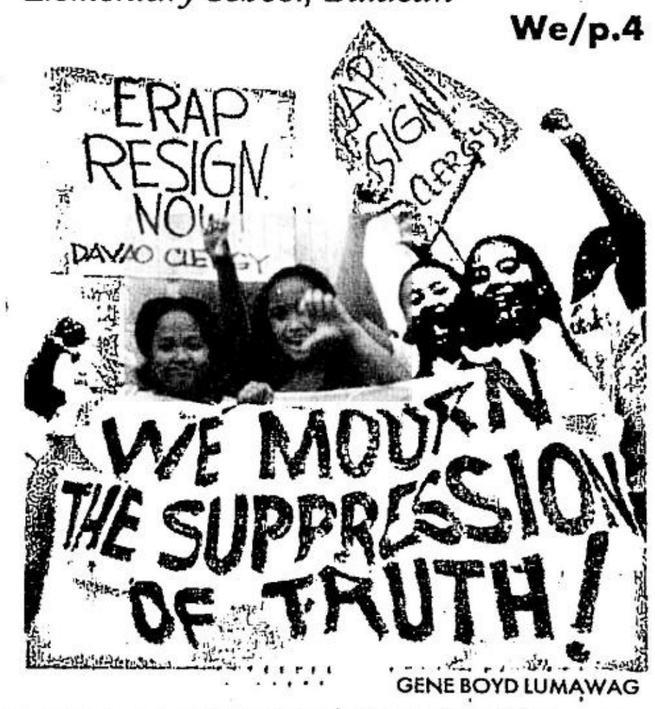
"Whenever I hear Erap's name, even before, all I can think of is evil so joined People Power II to be one with the other Filipinos who long for change."

—***Emmanuel Mutuc**, 8, Lias Elementary School, Bulacan*

"I dream for peace and I don't think Erap can do anything for our country to achieve this so I joined the rally, cheering with all my might just to make him resign."

—***Mary Grace Calilap**, 11, Marilao Elementary School, Bulacan*

We/p.4



GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

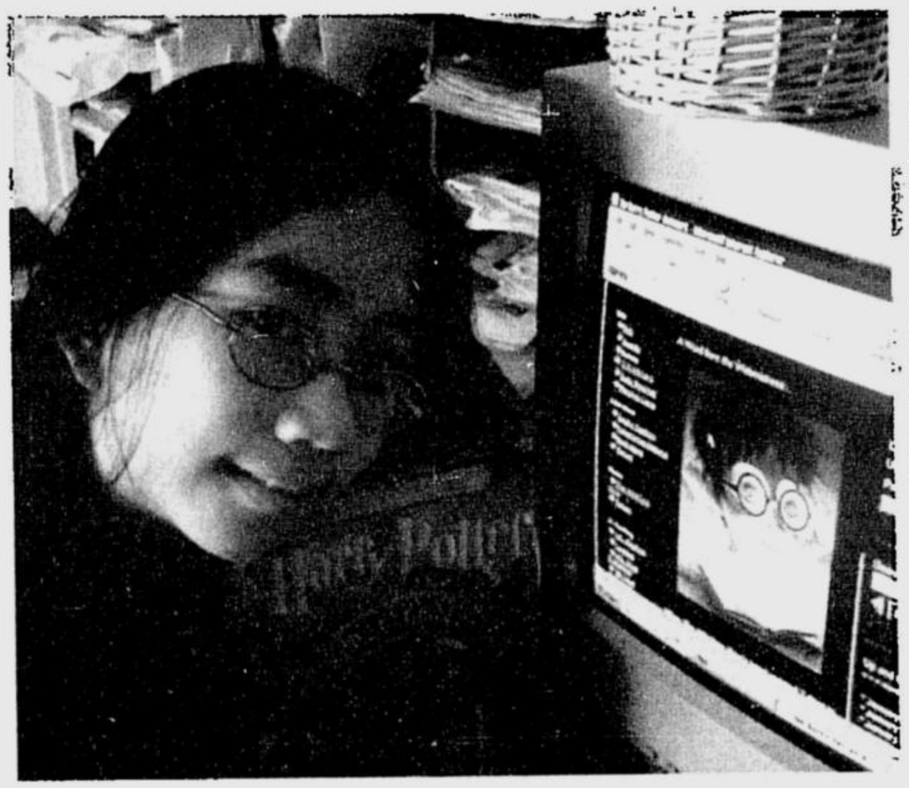
WORLD SCOPE

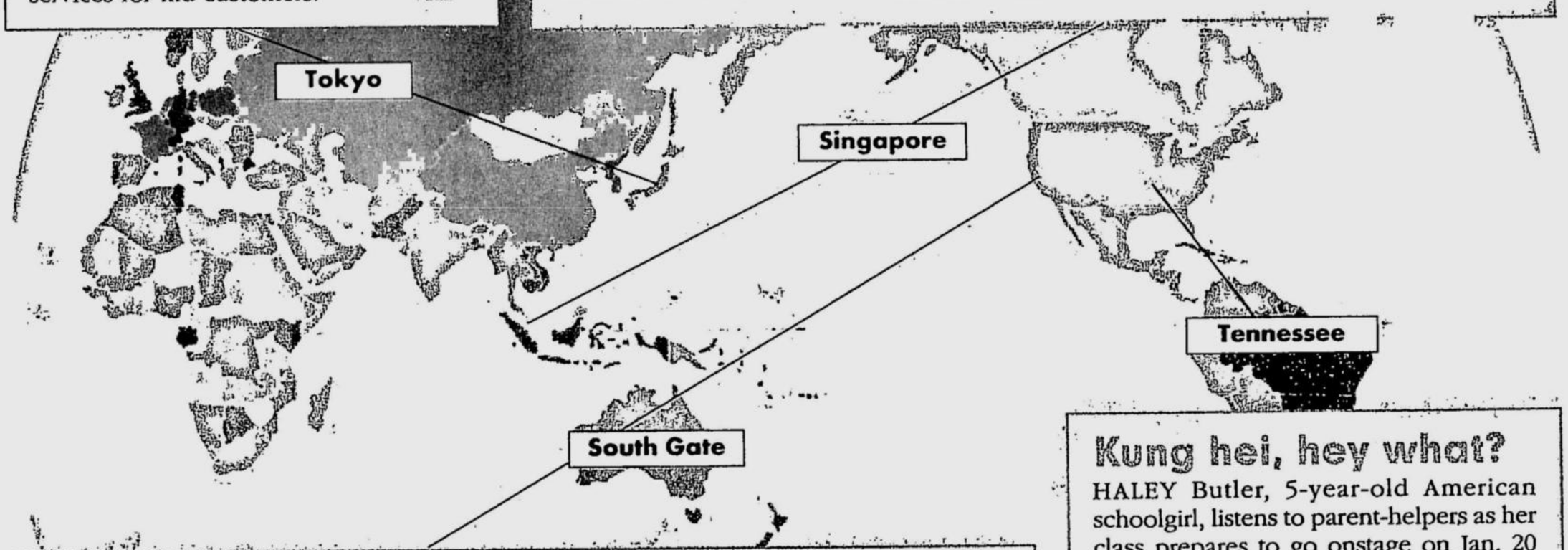
Salon for kids

TWO-YEAR-OLD Yuta Sakamoto (center), bursts into tears in the arms of his mother Keiko (right), as a beautician cuts his hair at a kids' salon. Surrounded by a variety of toys, the salon offers comfortable services for kid customers. *AP*

The problem with site names

CHRISTIE Chan, a 15-year-old schoolgirl, poses next to her computer displaying her website at her home in Singapore. Christie started her website dedicated to the Harry Potter children's book series in Oct. 1999. She has been asked by Time Warner Entertainment and the book's author, J.K. Rowling, to surrender the site's name. (Website names cannot just be used because some of them are owned.) *AP*





US kids protest power plant

SAMANTHA Diaz, 7, (center) and Crystal Espinoza, 10, (left) hold a banner as they walk down a street in California to protest a proposed electric plant that could be built in their community. Despite the current power troubles facing the state, many municipal residents are reluctant to allow new generating plants in their communities. The center sign reads, "The people do not want the electric plant," and the yellow signs read, "Would you let your kids play near an electric plant? No electric plant in South Gate!" *AP*

Kung hei, hey what?

HALEY Butler, 5-year-old American schoolgirl, listens to parent-helpers as her class prepares to go onstage on Jan. 20 for a dress rehearsal. The Chinese New Year is celebrated all over the world, wherever there are citizens of Chinese ancestry. *AP*

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

CARD-MAKING. Check out the free card-making workshops at any Cravings branch. Learn how to create your own zany greeting cards just in time for Valentine's Day. You don't even have to bring paper or crayons. There will be art materials waiting for your creative hands to use for free. Cravings restaurant branches can be found along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, Wilson Street in Greenhills, the Shangri-La Plaza Mall along EDSA, Robinsons Place in Manila and Festival Mall in Alabang. The workshops will be held today, tomorrow and on Feb. 10 and 11.

Hangout

LA-RU-AN. Know a friend who needs special care? Kids who are autistic or have learning difficulties can hang-out in a place that's a playground and learning center in one. Tell your friend's mom about the La-ru-an learning center. The name stands for (La) language arts; (Ru) reading and understanding; and (An) arts and crafts, numbers and nature. Their phone number is 435-4573 and you can visit them at 2/F FBR Arcade, 317 Katipunan Ave., Quezon City.

Contest

SCRATCH & WIN. All you Jack n' Jill Pretzel lovers, here's a chance for you to win exciting prizes in their Jungle Jamboree promo. After you munch those tasty chocolate pretzels, lightly rub the three panels at the back of the sticker found in each carton with a coin. If all the three boxes match, you win a prize! First prize is an all-expense paid trip to the Singapore Night Safari. You may bring along two of your family or friends to explore the wonders of nature in a three-day, two-night Safari trip plus P60,000. Other prizes include Sony PlayStations, Jack n' Jill Pretzels gift packs with jungle design T-shirts, hiking backpacks and wall clocks. That's not all, along with these exciting freebies, you also get to learn more trivia about our animal friends in each box. Hurry, grab your Jack n' Jill Pretzels at your nearest store now.

Cable Picks

DOG CHAMP. Who says only models rule the ramp? Doggies too! In the Animal Planet's feature on "National Dog Champion" our favorite pooches will strut their stuff down the catwalk for a chance to be named grand champion. From beauty pageant princesses to classy canine companions to sporting hounds, watch all of them tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. only on Animal Planet.

Right after that, watch a comprehensive exposé of the world of purebred dogs from the breeders' point of view in "Passion for Pedigree."

A DOG gets some last minute touch-ups to her hair.

Wanna be a JI correspondent?

WRITE an essay about your most amazing, weirdest, strangest daydream and send it to us on or before **March 5.**

Don't forget to include a piece of paper that has your name, age, address, contact number, school, e-mail address and parents' or guardian's names. Submit your essays typewritten and double-spaced on short bond paper. Mail it to:

I wanna be a JI correspondent!
The Junior Inquirer
Philippine Daily Inquirer
P.O. Box 2353
Makati Central Post Office
1263 Makati City

Kid Power! (from page 1)

there with her family on Wednesday night. "There were so many people, I couldn't breathe!" she told us. "But we went to the rally because Erap did a lot of wrong things and he still didn't want to tell the truth."

"Let's stay with them"

On Thursday, the crowd had not thinned. Twelve-year-old Julie Anne Margaret Canlapan, a student of Philippine Christian University in Manila, was riding in her brother's 10-wheeler truck when they passed through Edsa. "He was going to deliver some cargo but we passed by Edsa before going to Lucena," she said.

A little awe-struck, Julie recounted what happened next. "When the crowd saw us, they signaled for us to blow our horn. My *kuya* then blew his horn non-stop. Suddenly, the crowd started jumping and shouting 'Erap resign!' with their thumbs down. This moved me and I asked *kuya* if we could stay and be with them."

More moving events took place on Friday as the military and the police joined the people in asking President Estrada to resign. Our **'rific kids** for this issue, cousins Diane and Hannah Reyes, brought cans filled with coins to bang together as the crowds continued to chant, "Erap resign NOW!!!"

"People Power 1986 was just another history lesson for us," Diane remarked, "there were lots of pictures and sometimes when we walked around school, we would stick our hands together and say, 'Edsa!'"

"I'm really glad I experienced People Power," said Hannah, "later on, when I get to have grandchildren of my own, I won't just teach them through the books I've read but also through my own memories."

Tell your story

At noon the day after, 11-year-old Cecilia Paz "Patsy" Abad was called to hold the Bible as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn into office. "I didn't know that what I was going to do was that important," said Patsy, a fifth-grader at the School of the Holy Spirit in Quezon City, "I thought it would be just like holding the Bible during Mass."

She was on stage with her father Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad.

Later, during the big party at the Edsa Shrine, children could be seen waving at the cameras and dancing around several bonfires. Even if you were only at home, watching everything from your TV, you are still lucky to have seen these events. You have lived right smack in the middle of history; other kids will only get to read about this someday. It is a story that you must not forget because this story of our nation is now one of your own.

With reports from Niña Alipio, Gabriel Martin Doller, Jeiflyn Dizon, Yoradyl Leobrera and Louella Yu

'We Want to Be Part of History...' (from page 1)

"I think that the rally was weird and fun. I went there because of my parents. Erap was a corrupt president and it was right for him to resign."

—***Jenna Segovia***, *13, Immaculate Conception Academy, San Juan*

"It was fun, like a huge street party! I went there to be part of history. Erap? Well, he sucks."

—***Felicity Tan***, *13, Immaculate Conception Academy, San Juan*

"We held a prayer vigil for Erap's resignation because the country was already suffering."

—***Francis Rendell Calub***, *10, Pasig Catholic College*

"We were at one flyover during the rally. It's just right that Erap resigned because he deceived his countrymen."

—***Carmela Salazar***, *12, O.B. Montessori, San Juan*

"I went to Edsa because I love my country and I wanted Erap to step down. I shouted the chants against Erap very loudly because I believe that when he resigns it is a step toward a better Philippines."

—***Peter Jasteen Baterina***, *13, La Salle Greenhills*

"I wanted to see what was going on in our country. I listened to the people on the stage. I want Erap to resign because the peso's value has gone down so much and because he stole money from our country."

—***Nicco Diokno***, *8, Centro Montessori, Quezon City*

"I went with my mom to Edsa to give support to the millions of people who want Erap to resign. I am very sure he is a crook. I want change."

—***Niño Cuarto***, *12, San Beda College, Manila*

"I went to Edsa to know what the meaning of People Power is and I want to be part of history. We joined the rally and we danced. We joined the people protesting that Erap must resign because he abused his power."

—***Elise Samantha Ramos***, *9, Spurgeon School, Pasig*

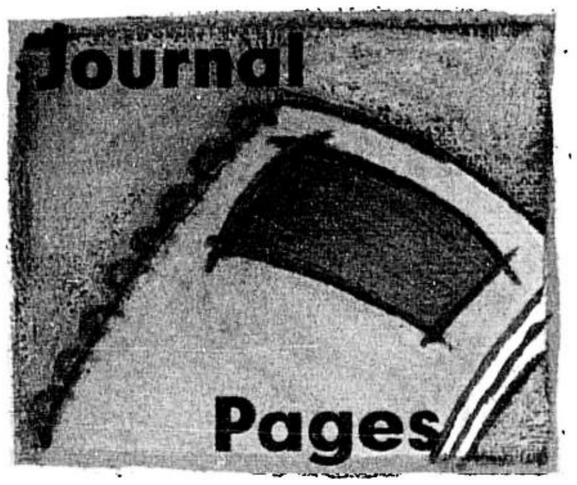
"I helped distribute food and heard Mass. Because of his immoral ways, he has lots of wives and vices, the businessmen have lost their trust in Erap which caused the fall of our economy."

—***Ryan Angeles***, *12, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong*

"I wanted to be a part of our history. I joined the human chain and bought glowsticks. Erap should resign because he's getting our money."

—***Alodia Gosiengfiao***, *13, Miriam College, Quezon City*

SCHOLASTICANS make themselves heard. ERNIE SARMIENTO



People Power II

BY STEPHANIE C. FERRER
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
QUEZON CITY

SOMETIMES I wish I was born earlier. I want to know what it felt like in the Edsa Revolution on Feb. 22-25, 1986. My grandparents, *Tita* and dad went there. I wished I could have been with them to share the glory of fighting for our freedom from the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

But starting the night of Jan. 16, 2001 I got the chance to do something for our country, too. Eleven senators voted not to open a second sealed envelope containing details about Estrada's wealth. I felt like crying because I was afraid of what would happen to our country. But after that, people called and sent text messages to one another to go to Edsa Shrine. People Power II started.

Day 1

Cardinal Sin, former President Aquino, former President Ramos, Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo and a very large crowd went to the Edsa Shrine. People marched down from their homes with banners and flags. I was happy because people were doing something about our problem with Estrada. I was scared, knowing that it was just the beginning.

Day 2

The crowd became larger. We, at St. Joseph's College in Quezon City had classes that day. At home, my eyes were always glued to the TV set, waiting and praying.

Day 3

Classes were suspended because our school's teachers and staff went to the Edsa Shrine for the rally. My mom, dad and I joined the rally at 9:40 p.m. I felt excited, because I was going to join a rally. I was going to be a part Philippine history.

Edsa was so crowded! Most were wearing black. Confetti was just everywhere! I could see that everyone had faith that the corrupt president would resign. We arrived home very late and very tired at 12:16 a.m.

Day 4

I woke up early and was again glued to the TV. I was very sure that something would happen that day. Sure enough, Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn in around noon and became the 14th President of the Republic of the Philippines. Everybody cheered and all were so very, very happy.

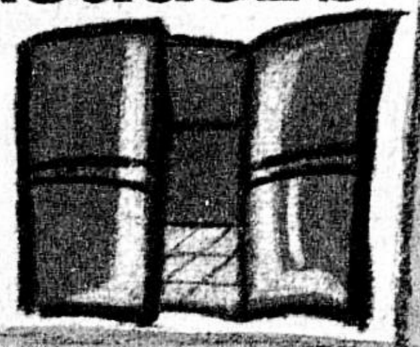
Once, I seldom watched the news. Now, I even ask how much is the rate of the peso to the dollar because I that the rate is affected even by what is happening in politics. I also watch CNN to see what other people think of our country.

Now I know what the Filipinos felt at the first People Power in 1986. They felt afraid for our country and for the people. I felt sad for former President Estrada when I saw him on TV leaving Malacañang with his family. I think that he should have resigned earlier to prevent further embarrassment to him and his family. But I'm still very happy that he stepped down so the Filipinos can have a better economy and start a new and better life.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

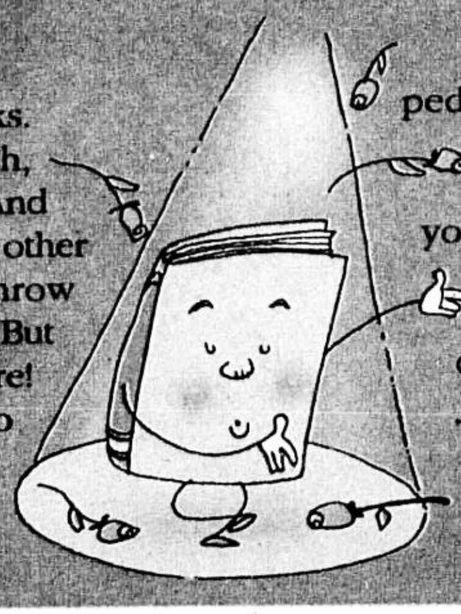
Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



On Books!

KIDS in our country have books. Some of them are in English, some of them are in Filipino. And some of them are written in other languages. Sometimes we throw our books because they're old. But please don't do this anymore! You can always donate them to an orphanage. I think the best books to read are encyclopedias, almanacs or the Guinness Book of World Records. Read the books again and again. If you don't understand some parts, read them again! Books are really useful so it's a good idea for all of us to read. Oh, and I really love JI! My cousins collect your issues every Saturday!—**CAMILLE VILLASECA**, Imus, Cavite



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Ang Tsokolate

NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Kulay putik
pero ang lasa'y pambihira.
Panatilihin sa loob ng bibig
hanggang unti-unting
natutunaw sa dila
patungo sa lalamunang nasasabik.
Sasalitan ng pag-inom
ng malamig na malamig
na tubig nang pagkauhaw ay mawala
at saka muling kakain
ng tsokolateng parang putik.

*Si **Genaro** ay dating Literary editor ng The Torch Publications, ang pahayagang pang-kampus ng Philippine Normal University.*
*Si **Albert** ay nagtapos ng Fine Arts sa University of the Philippines.*

ILLUSTRATION
PEPPER RO

If

BY ALAN OPPENHEIM

If video games were homework,
I'd love it. I hate homework and
Unless it's playing video games,
I hate it!

If my sister stopped being annoying,
I would like her a whole lot more.
I'd play with her and have fun.

If you could talk to a computer,
then things would be a lot easier to access
and all you need to do is talk and it'll do it for you.

If I could conquer all my fears
In the blink of an eye,
Then I would be happy.

I'm scared of a lot of stuff.
I'd love to conquer all my fears.

__Alan__ is a Grade 5 student at International School Manila. He was born on May 15, 1990 in the Philippines. He has a craving for video games and his favorite book is "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." He loves math and wants to be a banker like his Uncle Al. The one person he thinks is the most annoying is his sister.

My Secret Place

By Nicole Garcia

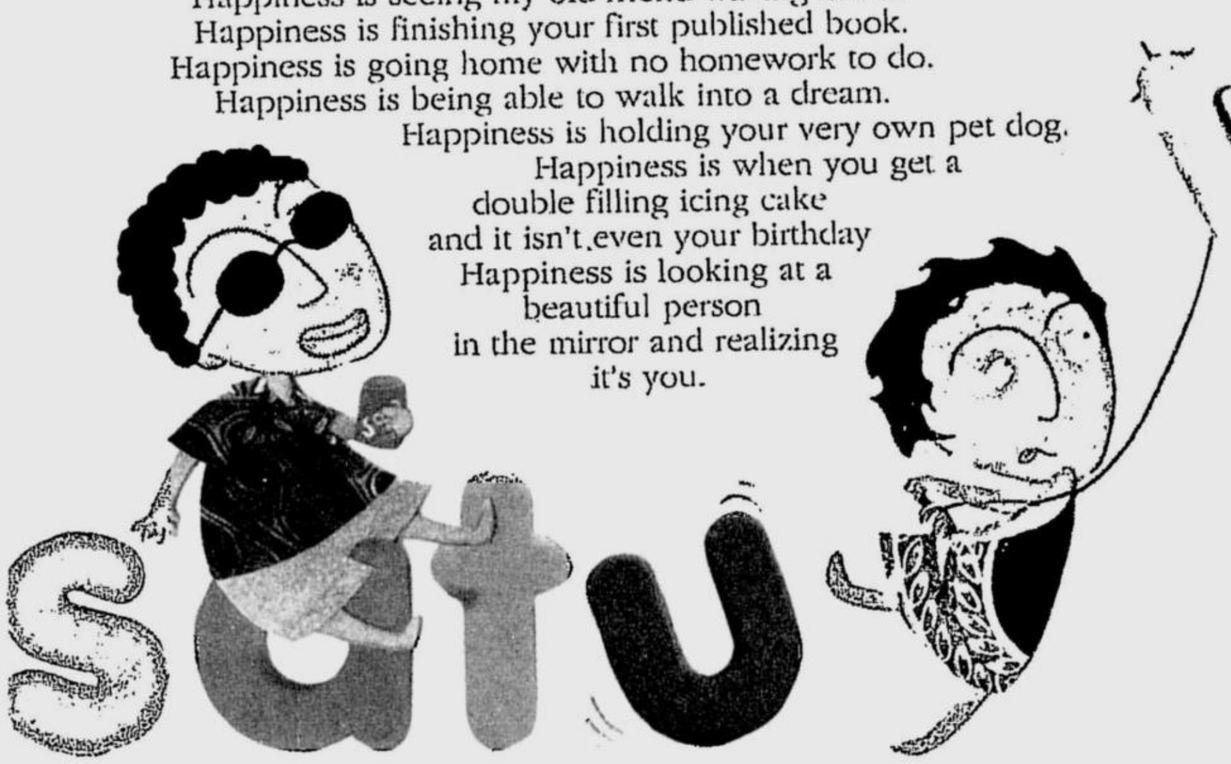
Everyone has secret places
And some are easily found
like bed-nooks,
or maybe a backyard tent.
But some aren't so quickly found,
Like hollow-tree caves.
Ground tunnels,
Or maybe a nook just behind a bush.
No one's found mine yet,
The branches of a backyard tree,
If you can act like a squirrel and race up,
You can gladly join me.
Leaves will keep us from the rain,
Birds keep company.
You can borrow my secret place,
If you've lost yours and may need another.

***Nicole** was born on May 15, 1989. Her favorite animal is dragon, while her favorite book is "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." She loves the color turquoise. A fifth-grader at International School Manila, she loves reading best of all and reads at least a book a day!*

Happiness

By Marion Branellec

Happiness is my favorite day, Saturday!
Happiness is seeing my old friend waving at me.
Happiness is finishing your first published book.
Happiness is going home with no homework to do.
Happiness is being able to walk into a dream.
Happiness is holding your very own pet dog.
Happiness is when you get a
double filling icing cake
and it isn't even your birthday
Happiness is looking at a
beautiful person
in the mirror and realizing
it's you.

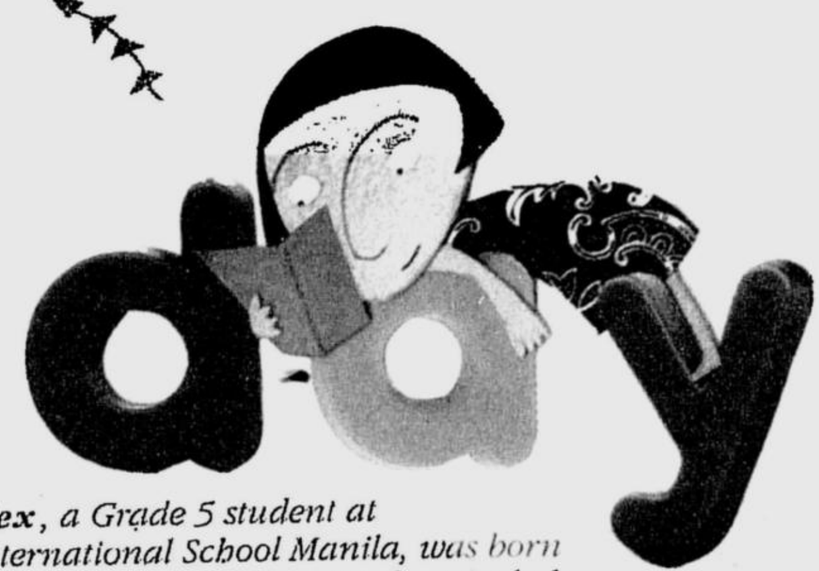


***Marion**, a Grade 5 student at International School Manila, loves to read and write. She is French and Filipina. She has a Labrador called Jasmine. Her favorite hobbies are singing, dancing, reading and coloring and playing her favorite computer game. When she grows up, she wants to be a singer.*

Saturday

By Alexander Purdue

Saturday, any Saturday
Is always a good day.
It's always a quiet day,
Or a noisy day.
Anything can happen.
Loll around, sleeping,
Absolutely anything
Best of all it
Comes once a week.



***Alex**, a Grade 5 student at International School Manila, was born in Brisbane, Australia. His favorite hobbies are playing tennis, sleeping and just loafing around.*

***Pepper** is a freelance illustrator born one wacky Wednesday, in a land where people topple over because of the sheer weight of their extremely large heads. When she grows up, she wants to be a freelance illustrator.*

'Biz Basics from Beadblastics

For cousins Diane and Hannah Reyes, free time is business time

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

IT didn't really start as a business, the two girls tell us. "Hannah bought some beads from National Bookstore," says 12-year-old Diane Camille Reyes.

"You know the Swarovski things?" Hannah asks, referring to the crystal beads that was a craze a while back. "I decided to buy beads of different kinds." Ten-year-old Hannah Maria Carmina Reyes is Diane's cousin.

The two of them began collecting more beads and soon they were stringing them together into all kinds of fancy trinkets. "We didn't have any ropes at first because we didn't know what kind to use," recalls Diane.

With a nod, Hannah adds, "Once we used (sewing) thread but it broke easily because it wasn't flexible."

After a few trips to Divisoria and Quiapo, though, Diane and Hannah had everything they needed. Not long after, friends of their mom taught them how to make different designs. They learned a trick or two from other family members too. Hannah also picked up other techniques from her Homemakers' Club at St. Scholastica Manila where both girls go to school.

"Beadblastics" is born

"One time, we were just bored and we decided to sell what we made," says Hannah, "but we first had to have a name." Their business' name, they agreed, had to say something about beads.

Bead-something. . .bead-something, they thought, until Hannah hit upon an idea. "Sometimes beads are a blast," she says, "so we called it 'Beadblastics.'"

"It's somewhat like create-your-own bracelet or necklace or anklet or ring," explains Diane, "but we're the ones who make them. They just choose the beads."

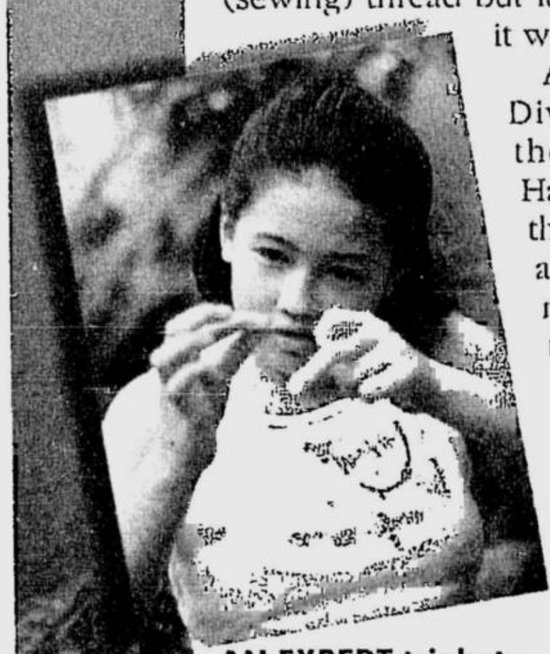
Customers get to pick their beads from three Daddy-sized toolboxes neatly divided into the different bead varieties. Although the two girls reveal that they have a horde of other beads stashed away in their house.

Right now, though, their only customers are family members and some friends. "We asked my dad to build a small stand for us outside the house but then we didn't have any wood," says Diane. Just the same, Diane and Hannah are content to make their bead accessories at home or to carry their "toolboxes" with them when they visit other people's houses.

On the perks of having a business that's a fun hobby too, Hannah points out, "Sometimes I just make (accessories that) match my clothes.

"October last year was Rosary month," Diane informs us, "but I didn't want to buy a new rosary. So I made myself one."

"It's really fun!" Hannah pipes in, "Maybe when we grow up we can even be famous."



AN EXPERT trinket-maker, Diane also hopes to be a dancer someday.

DOUBLE DELIGHT. Whenever they sell something, Hannah and Diane's lolo doubles their earnings if they keep it in the bank.

Photos by EDWIN BACASMAS

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kids 'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at

_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

_____

Sender's Name:

_____

Sender's Age & School:

_____

Sender's Address:

_____

Sender's Contact No.

'Aaaayyy, Nuriko!!!'

Michiko Azarcon is the voice behind the beloved defender of Suzaku

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

MICHIKO knew exactly who she wanted to be during the "Fushigi Yugi" auditions. "Nurikooo!" she squeals happily.

"Ever since I really wanted to be her. . .her *ha!* Nuriko is a 'she,'" Mitch declares with a tiny mischievous glint in her eye. "I saw the anime before it was shown in the Philippines and I watched her death scene," she explains, "it was the coolest! As in, the best."

In the storyline of "Fushigi Yugi"—literally, Japanese for "Mysterious Game"—Nuriko is the first of the seven defenders of Suzaku to fall. She (Mitch won't let us say "he") dies protecting those she loves with every ounce of her superhuman strength.

THAT'S ME! Experience in theater helped Mitch become a better voice-actor. JOAN BONDOC

The long road to Konan

The role, though, didn't fall straight out of the Universe of the Four Gods straight onto 22-year-old Michiko Azarcon's lap—she's not Japanese, by the way, but her mom did name her after the Japanese Empress.

Around two years ago, Mitch and some pals from U.P. hatched a grand plan to get into the anime dubbing business. They were going to propose the showing of "Fushigi Yugi;" they even fully translated the script themselves. Then they were going to apply as the voice-actors.

Eventually, they found out that GMA-7 was already going to air "Fushigi Yugi" and that the distributors didn't need more dubbers. "We were asked if we wanted to help with the scripts instead," says Mitch.

Although she did get to work on some of the show's scripts, Mitch still had her heart set on becoming one of the characters. "I would call the director once a week, twice a week, then almost everyday," she reveals, laughing. One day, they finally let her audition. *"Ang kulit-kulit mo kasi eh!* (You're too persistent!)" she recalls hearing them say.

Michiko=Nuriko

Mitch was a shoe-in for the role. "Before I thought I should have a low voice because Nuriko's voice is low in the Japaneses version," she says, "but the director told me to just use my real voice."

She adds that dubbers don't just read the script, they have to really act too. "You have to do her gestures," says Mitch and she puts her hands on her hips *à la* Nuriko. "You get her mannerisms and her facial expressions, especially when she goes, '*Haaay!* Tamahome! *Hindi mo na ako mahal!!!*'" As Mitch does her distinct Nuriko-wail, we almost feel like we've been transported to Konan.

After "Fushigi Yugi," Mitch went on to do other anime projects in between singing, cross-stitching and finishing her studies as a Speech Communications major in UP. "It's a fun part-time job," she says, "it's just like a hobby or a game." Hmmm, we wonder, could it be a "mysterious game"?

Starring Michiko as. . .

. . .Nuriko, Soi, Miboshi and Subaru in "Fushigi Yugi"
. . .Haruna and Sigil in "Gran Doll"
. . .Gadget, Rabiori and Dr. Cheros in "Gadget Boy"
. . .Undine the Mermaid in "Monster Rancher"
. . .Maya and Lilica in "Burn-Up" (video release)

Mitch was also the main scriptwriter for "Monster Rancher."

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.
He/She is ____ years old and is my _____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1) _____;
2) _____;
3) _____;
4) _____;
and
5) _____.

My nominee lives at _____
_____
Give him/her a call at _____
_____ or send him/her an e-mail at _____.
By the way, I'm _____
_____
I'm _____ years old.
My address is
_____
You may call me at
_____.

Are You a Whiz Kid? – Part 2

HERE'S the second and final round of our quiz consisting of questions asked in the 1st Grand Finals of the "Digital LG Quiz" (Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. on GMA 7) ruled by Brian Lagason of the Regional Science High School of Olongapo City. Are you up to this tough test?

1. **Music**

The song "Aquarius," which became an anthem of the hippie movement in the '60s, is from what controversial rock musical and later Broadway hit?

2. **Astronomy**

Literally meaning "table," what small and faint constellation near the southern celestial pole is also the name of a prestigious world society?

3. **Monickers**

The "Oriental Don Quixote" is one of the lesser-known epithets of what 19th-century hero and martyr?

4. **Games and Leisure**

Which Filipino immigrant introduced the yo-yo in the United States in the 1920s?

5. **History**

What historic event is associated with this poetic line from the Sanskrit poem Bhagavad-Gita: "I am become Death, the Destroyer of Worlds"?

6. **Scholarships**

What prestigious scholarship was established in 1899 for a study grant at Oxford University?

7. **Literature**

Name the imaginative wife of the woman-hating Sultan Schahriah who narrated the "Arabian Nights," the source of Aladdin and many other popular tales.

8. **Entertainment**

Sylvester Stallone got the inspiration for "Rocky" after watching in person a heavyweight bout where a bruised and bloodied white boxer named Chuck "The Bayonne Bleeder" Wepner lasted the distance against what ring legend?

9. **Sports**

in 1979 this athlete won two different world championships: first in Bangkok and then in Manila, marking the first time that a Filipino had earned two world titles in the same year. Who is this durable sports legend who is also the first Filipino athlete to be listed in the Guinness Book of World Records?

10. **Science and Technology**

1990 marked the start of the Human Genome Project, a milestone 13-year international effort that aims to map all the genes in the human body. According to most estimates, what is the maximum number of these vital human genes?

11. **Philosophy**

Born in 1898 and considered the brightest human of all time, this American prodigy spoke five languages at age 5, wrote four books before he was 8, and entered Harvard University as a college student at age 11. Who was this boy wonder who had total virtual total recall of everything he read?

12. **General Knowledge**

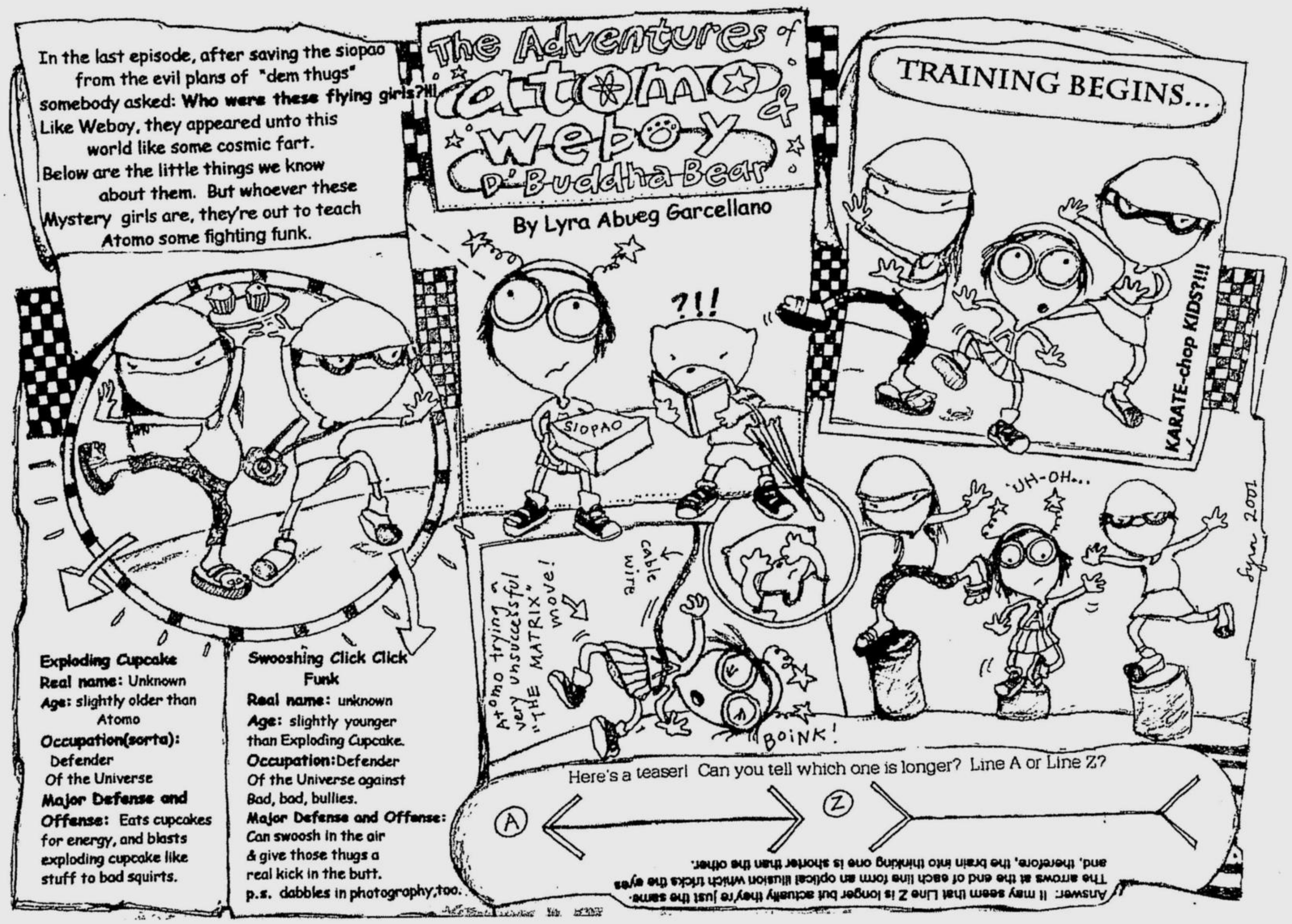
In a landmark auction in 1994, Microsoft founder Bill Gates bought for a record $30.8 million a 500-year-old notebook written by Leonardo da Vinci. What is the name of this unbound 72-page manuscript?

Answers:

1."Hair" 7.Scheherazade
2.Mensa 8.Muhammad Ali
3.Jose Rizal 9.Olivia "Bong" Coo
4.Pedro Flores 10.10,000
5.Test explosion of the first atom bomb 11.Immanuel Kant
6.Rhodes Scholarship 12.Codex Leicester or Codex Hammer

Ratings:

11 - 12	9 - 10	6 - 8
superbrain!	excellent!	good!



FOR or By KIDS

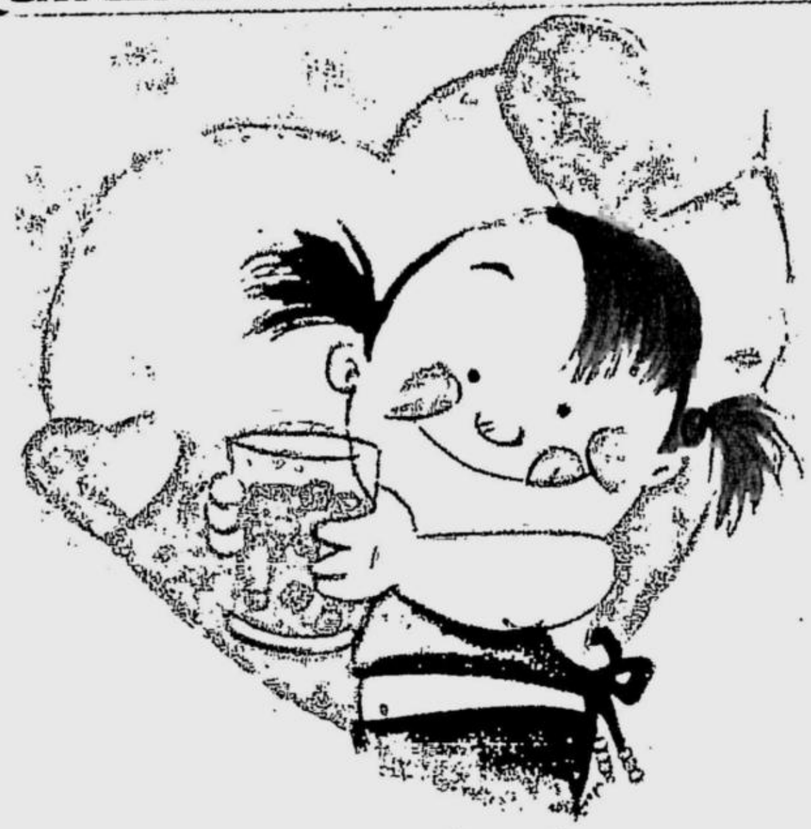
MGA TULA NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI STEPH BRAVO

Ang Sorbetes

Parang ulap sa sarap,
patung-patong.
Hindi alam kung saan uunahing kainin;
sa ilalim ba o tagiliran?
Minsan may mga butil ng keso o sago
na mararamdaman ang dila
o hinimay na langka o kinayod na buko.
o kung tag-melon ay matamis na melon
at kung tag-mangga ay hinog na mangga.

Pang-alis init sa bumbunan,
pampaluwag ng pusong nasisikipan,
bumubuhay sa tuyong lalamunan
at pampasaya
sa pamilyang mahilig magkainan.

At hindi pinagsasawaan
ng batang matiyagang naghihintay
sa Mamang Sorbeterong mabait.



Ang Palamig

Lulutang-lutang
mga maliliit na gayat ng gulaman.
Huhulihin ng panalok;
may nagkukubli sa malalaking tipak
ng yelo,
may nasa ilalim
at nagpapakalunod
sa mabangong pandan,
at may sabik na sabik
mapunta sa baso.

Mabangong-mabango.
Hahagurin ang nanunuyong lalamunan
habang ang mga maliliit na gayat ng gulaman
ay kikislot-kislot
sa dila ng batang suki

Ang Tsamporado

Parang nilusaw na tsokolate.
Kay sarap lalo na't
malamig ang panahon
o walang tigil
ang patak ng ulan.
Paiikutan
ng maputing-maputi gatas
at bubudburan ng asukal.
Hahaluin.
Habang sumisilay
ang lamukot
ng takam sa mata
ng batang naiinip
sa mainit na tsamporado.

*Si **Genaro** ay tubong Bulacan at nag-aral sa Philippine Normal University.*
Ang ilan sa kanyang mga tula ay nalathala na sa Liwayway, Free Press at Sunday Inquirer Magazine.
*Si **Steph** ay isa sa mga staff artists ng INQUIRER.*

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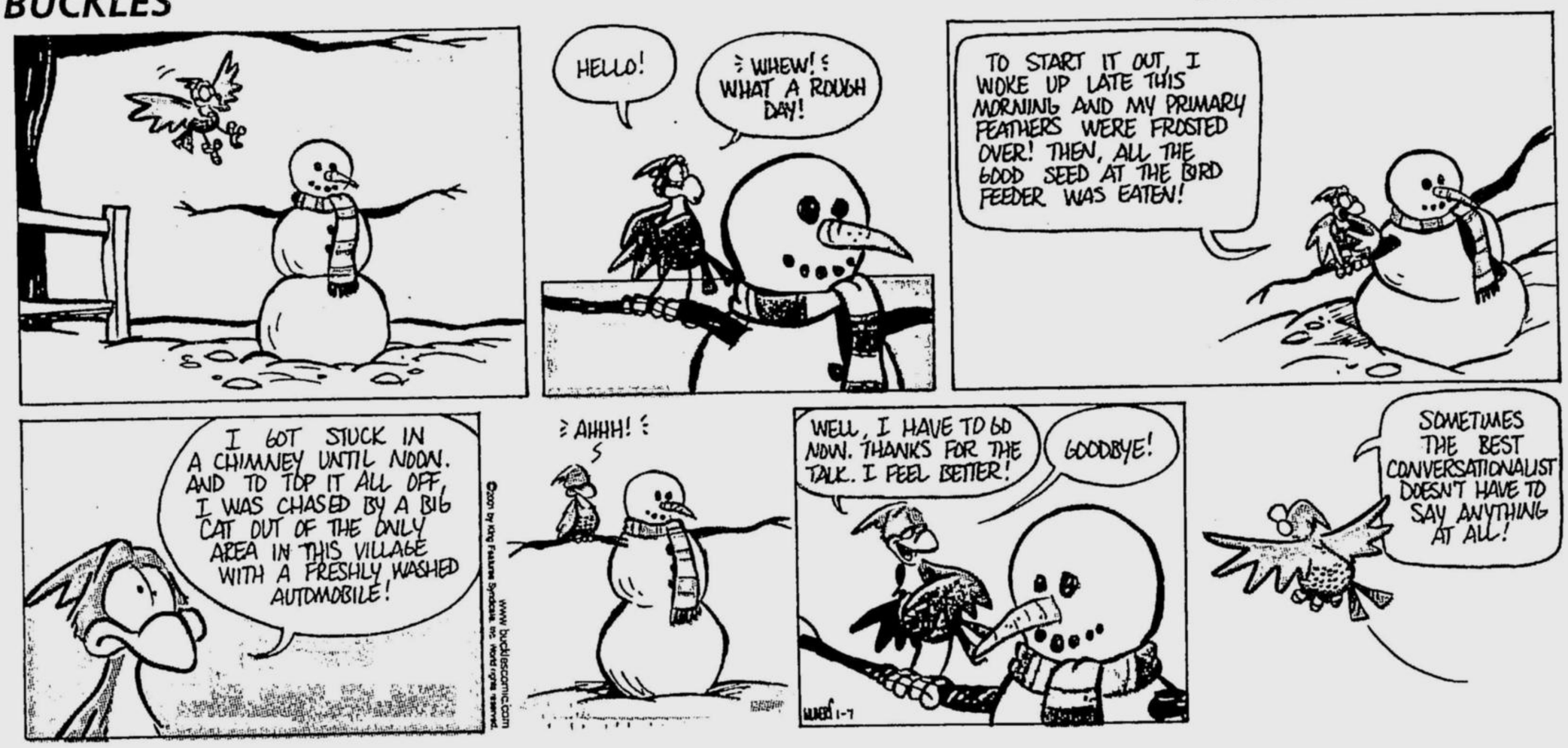
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT